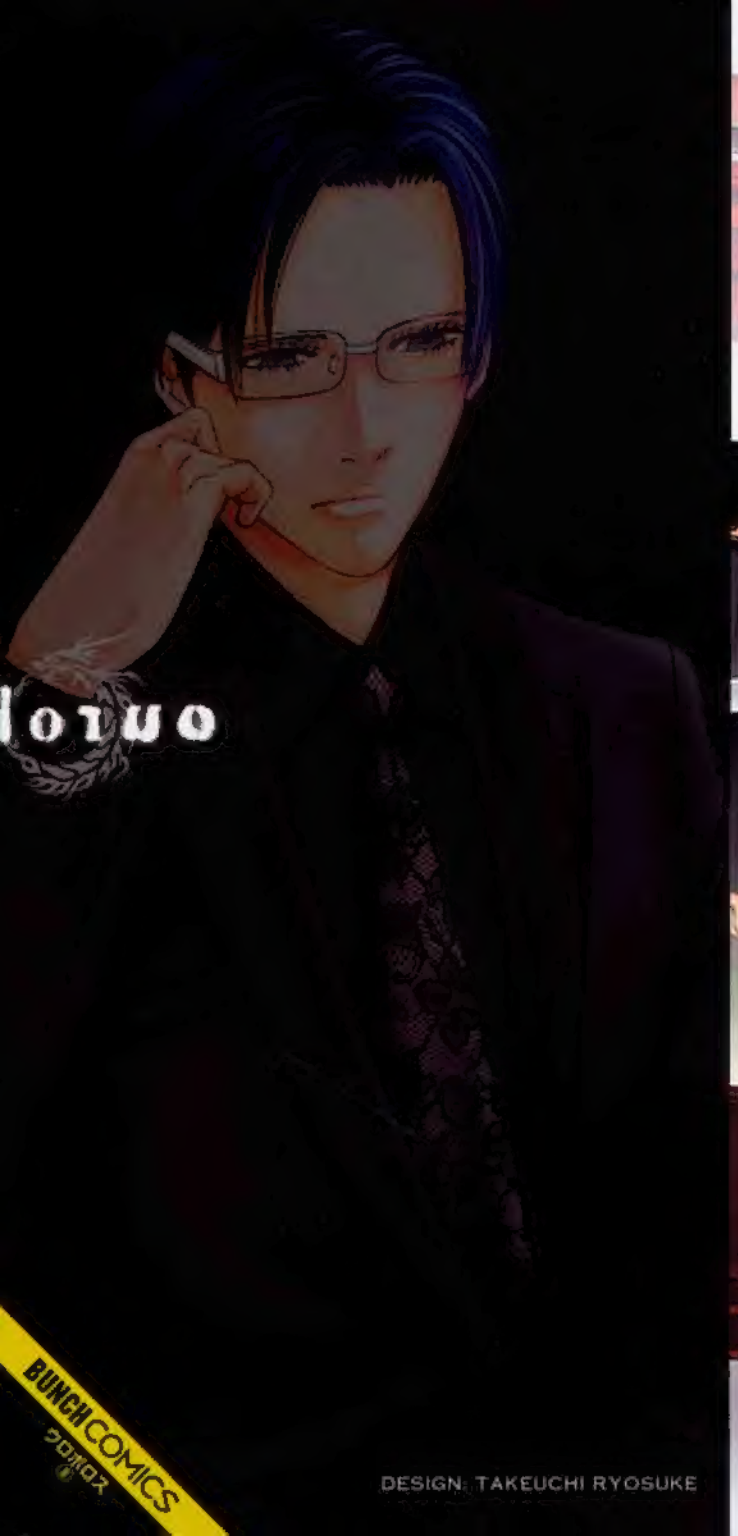

ウロボロス

ouroboros

警察ヲ裁クハ我ニアリ

8

Yuya Kanzaki

神崎裕也

BUNCH COMICS

ウロボロス

ouroboros

警察ヲ裁クハ我ニアリ

8

神崎裕也

Yuya Kanzaki

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アイドル殺害死体遺棄事件の手掛かりを掴んだ日比野は、犯人がいるとされる裏サロンで潜入捜査を開始。一方でイクオは、独りで捜査を行う日比野の身を案じ、竜哉と共に現場へ向かう…。そこには、意外な人物の姿が…!?

ouroboros

BUNCH COMICS

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Yūya Kamizuki

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AKUTSU FUMIYA!!

1

Akutsu Fumiya

FIRST PLACE GOES TO THE HANDSOME ACTOR, WHO SEEMS TO BE A TENDER LOVER,

WHAT'S SO COOL ABOUT THAT BASTARD?

TSK!

HE IS A MEMBER OF THE BAND "WILD", AND SEEMS TO BE REALLY KIND...

WOOOW, HE IS SO HOT!!

SFX: Grab!

THE OTHER DAY THE GARBAGE TRUCK HAD ALREADY PASSED WHEN I DID IT...

DAMN IT, TAKING THE RUBBISH OUT BEFORE EIGHT O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING IS JUST TOO EARLY...

AH! Shit!

SIGH...

I HAD BETTER TAKE THE RUBBISH OUT BEFORE I GO TO BED...

IF THEY WANT RUB-BISH, THE BASTARDS SHOULD COME AND PICK IT THEMSEL...

DON'T DISREGARD THE ROUTINE OF US PART-TIMERS, DAMN IT!

IN MY CASE, AFTER THIS I'LL HIT THE SACK AND WON'T BE UP UNTIL AFTER-NOON!

WHY THE HELL DO COLLECTION HOURS AND SALARY MAN COMMUTING HOURS MATCH, ANYWAY?

SFX. step (3X)

SFX. wind blowing

THAT... RUB-BISH!?

第61話
CHAPTER 61: RIDICULE

THE NAKED CORPSE OF ANOTHER WOMAN WAS DISCOVERED IN THE CITY CENTRE.

THERE'S A CASE, RYUUZAKI-SAN!

SFX. shu

Y-YES ...

WE MUST HURRY UP!

BANDO-SAN AND THE OTHERS ARE AL-READY AT THE CRIME SCENE.

SFX. vrooom!

SFX. ka

HIBINO-SAN HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT NOTHING BUT WORK...

RIDICULING ME BECAUSE I AM A WOMAN...

I'VE REALLY SCREWED UP THIS TIME...

HELP, YOU SAY?

HUH!?

WAI... WAIT A SEC! I SIMPLY WANTED TO HELP YOU WITH MARO...

SFX: sigh...

YOU ARE LOOKING DOWN ON WOMEN.

IN OTHER WORDS ...

AFTER ALL, WOMEN MUST CONFORM TO THE WAYS OF MEN IN EVERYTHING, IS WHAT YOU MEANT, RIGHT?

NOT BEING ABLE TO RELIEVE HERSELF OUTDOORS... IS THIS THE ONLY REASON A WOMAN LIKE ME IS NOT QUALIFIED TO BE IN THE FIRST DIVISION?

IN THE PERIOD WE HAVEN'T MET YOU HAVE RISEN TO GREATNESS, HAVEN'T YOU, RYUZAKI-SAN... AND JUST LIKE DIRECTOR TAKENOUCHI, YOU ARE PLAYING THE MALE ROLE HERE...

WHAT A SCREW-UP...

EVEN THOUGH THAT WASN'T MY INTENTION AT ALL,

I AM AT FAULT HERE.

...NO,

FROM THE MOMENT SHE ENTERED THE FIRST DIVISION, SHE HAS BEEN SUFFERING SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND DERISION FOR BEING A WOMAN.

AND NOW, ALTHOUGH I AM HIBINO-SAN'S PARTNER AND AM SUPPOSED TO BACK HER UP...

SFX: chirp (ZX)

チュン チュル...

THE VICTIM IS ALIVE!?

HUH!?

WELL, THEN, SHE MUST KNOW WHO THE CRIMINAL IS...

THAT'S ...

BESIDES, SHE ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE RECEIVED A MASSIVE DOSE OF MDMA.

DON'T MISUN-DER-STAND.

EVEN THOUGH SHE IS ALIVE, SHE IS IN A CRITICAL STATE AND UNCON-SCIOUS.

LIKE THE PREVIOUS VICTIM, SHE HAS THE SAME CORD-SHAPED WOUND IN HER NECK...

!

NO NEED!

OKAY, WE WILL ALSO...

ANYHOW, WITH THIS WE ARE BOUND TO MAKE PROG-RESS IN SOLVING THIS CASE.

WHEN WE ARE DONE HERE, THERE WILL BE AN EMER-GENCY INVES-TIGATION MEETING IN THE KAMISAKA STATION.

WE ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE INVESTIGATION TEAM!

HUH!? WAIT, PLEASE.

FLAP, FLAP

YOU TWO WILL GO TO THE HOSPITAL AND WAIT UPON THE VICTIM.

IF PERCHANCE THE VICTIM OPENS HER EYES, IT WILL BE YOUR JOB TO NOTIFY ME IMMEDIATELY.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? ISN'T WAITING UPON THE VICTIM ALSO AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE INVESTIGATION?

SFX: grin...

!! .....

INCIDENTALLY, ACCORDING TO THE POLICE SURGEON, THE CHANCES OF SAVING HER SEEM TO BE EXTREMELY SMALL, YOU KNOW.

JUST WAIT PATIENTLY UNTIL THE VICTIM OPENS HER EYES.

NO MATTER HOW MANY HOURS, DAYS, OR WEEKS...

Fuh?

THE NAME OF THE VICTIM IS ANDOU SHIORI.

SHE IS THE SAME AS THE FIRST VICTIM, TOOYAMA CHIASA... AN OB-SCURE IDOL.

THIS. . IS UN-COM-FORT-ABLE..

.....

WHO KNOWS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, HIBINO-SAN?

SURELY THE REAR SALON MUST BE CON-NECTED TO THIS, RIGHT?

DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.

ER.. I NEED TO GO TO THE TOILET FOR A BIT!

HOW DID IT BECOME LIKE THIS...

EVEN THOUGH, AFTER SO MUCH TROUBLE, HIBINO-SAN AND I ARE WORKING TO-GETHER AGAIN...

BEFORE, HIBINO-SAN AND I WOULD...

WHO CARES WHETHER WE ARE MEN OR WOMEN?

んでさが!? えっ!?

IN A WAY, I'M FEEL-ING MORE TIRED THAN WHEN I WAS WITH BANDO-SAN...

SFX: Blam!

SFX: Shoom

"IT'S BECAUSE THEY HANG AROUND THESE PLACES THAT THEY GET DIRTY LOOKS."
"GIRLS' AIR HEADEDNESS IS THE PROBLEM."
BE IT IN THE FIRST DIVISION OR IN MASS MEDIA...
GIRLS ARE ALWAYS TOLD THEY REAP WHAT THEY SOW.
I UNDERSTAND THAT VERY WELL...
LOOK AT THEM, ALL TRYING TO IMPROVE THEIR TALENT IN ORDER TO STAY IN THE WORLD OF SHOW BUSINESS, EVEN IF IT COMES TO THIS.
BY THAT LOGIC, THIS IS THE CORRECT ANSWER.

SFX: hold!

NO DOUBT, THESE GIRLS ...

NEED SOMEONE ON THEIR SIDE.

AT TIMES LIKE THIS,

ONE WHO SEEKS JUSTICE FOR THE WRONGS COMMITTED AGAINST THEM.

FOR EXAMPLE, A PERSON WHO UNDERSTANDS THEIR FEELINGS,

A PERSON WHO CAN DO THAT WOULD...

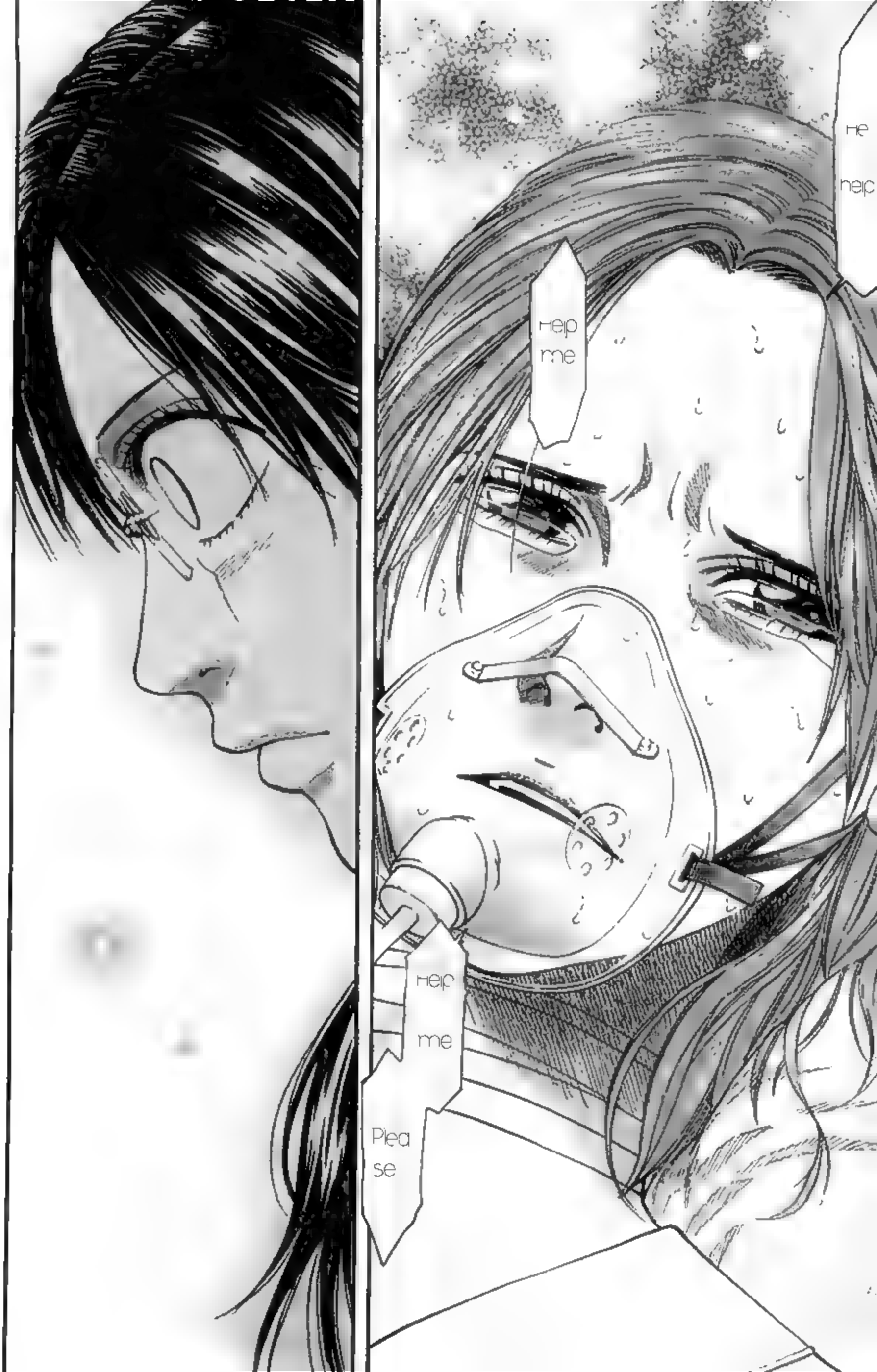
CLEN CH!

ACCORDING TO THE DOCTORS, SAVING HER FROM THIS CRITICAL CONDITION WAS...

BUT... RIGHT NOW, SHE DEFINITELY SQUEEZED MY HAND...

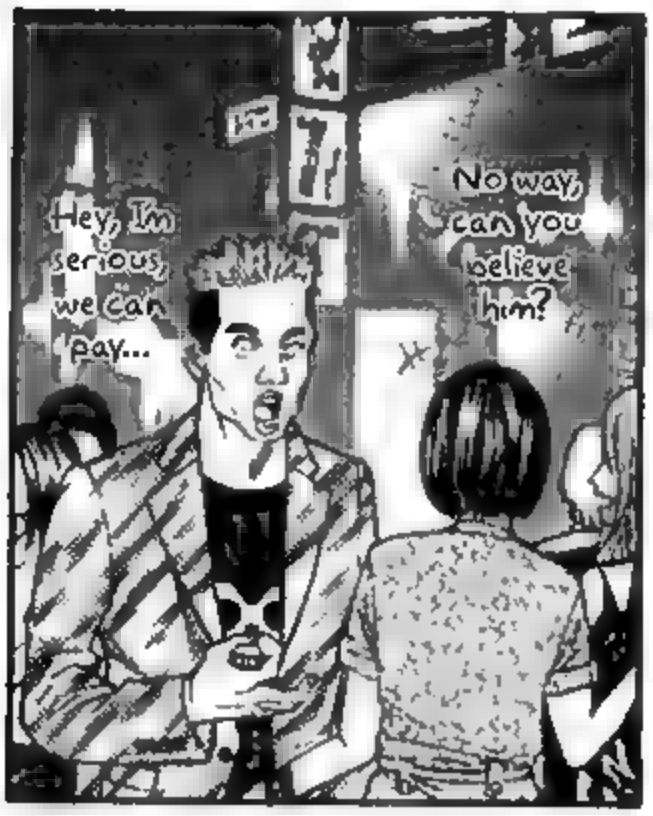
!!

Y-YOU ARE!?


He
help
Help
me
Help
me
Plea
se

HM?
AS EXPECTED, THERE'S NOTHING TO DO IN THIS HOSPITAL, THE WHOLE DAY...
WHERE THE HECK IS SHE...
HIBINO-SAN...

HIBINO-SAN?
HEY! HIBINO ...



SFX: traffic sounds

SFX: ba-dump!

SFX: fidgeting

IF YOU JOIN US, SWEETIE, EVERY MONTH YOU CAN MAKE A MIL-LION...

HEY, WAIT JUST A SEC!

DO YOU WANNA WORK IN OUR PLACE!?

SLIP!

SFX, quick running

NAH, IT MAKES ME FEEL A LITTLE EM-BAR-RASSED...

!

E...

EX-CUSE -MEE E!!

STILL, BEING CALLED A TENDER LOVER... ALSO MAKES ME GLAD, YOU KNOW.

RIGHT NOW, WORK COMES FIRST FOR ME, AND THE TIME TO FIND A SOUL MATE IS STILL VERY ..

EVERYBODY, PLEASE WATCH IT!

IN ANY CASE, THIS TIME I'M CONCENTRATING ALL MY ENERGY ON MY FIRST LEADING ROLE IN A DETECTIVE DRAMA!

刑事

... AND THIS TIME, OUR GUEST HAS BEEN THE FAMOUS ACTOR AND HOTTIE, AKUTSU FUMIYA!

CLAP, CLAP

SFX: crowd noises

JUST WHERE DOES SHE PLAN ON GOING ALL BY HER-SELF?

IF I THOUGHT HIBINO-SAN WAS ACTING STRANGE...

THAT ONE... IS REALLY HIBINO-SAN... ISN'T SHE?

When did she look that nice...

I MEAN ...

30分 50
メイドさんの

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

DEATHTOLL

DEATHTOLLSCANS.NET

TRANSLATOR:

WRAITH

PROOFREADER:

HACK

CLEANER:

XLATER

REDRAWER:

ZIPPY

TYPESETTER:

WRAITH

QUALITY CHECK:

WRAITH

HIBINO-SAN...

JUST WHERE DOES SHE PLAN ON GOING ALL BY HERSELF?

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING...

HIBINO-SAN...

BY MARO'S ORDERS, BOTH OF US HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY TAKEN OUT OF THE INVESTIGATION THIS TIME.

AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, HIBI-NO-SAN ENDED UP TURNING HER ANGER EVEN ON ME, HER PARTNER... WHAT NOW?

欲
第62話
CHAPTER 62: DESIRE
IT WAS EASY TO TAIL HER, BUT... WHAT'S HER BUSINESS IN A FIVE-STAR HOTEL LIKE THIS?
COULD IT SIMPLY BE A PRIVATE MATTER?
!!

THE "REAR SALON" MARO MENTIONED IS IN THIS PLACE?
YOU'VE ALL HEARD OF IT RIGHT?
"THE REAR SALON"
PERHAPS...

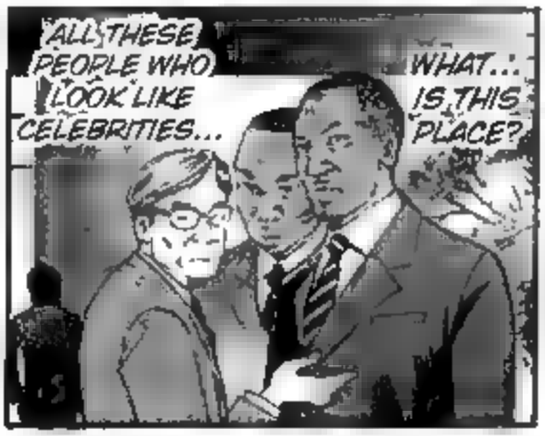
Zelly: Take this! v
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GO ALONE!
STILL, IF IT'S LIKE THIS...
BUT THE VICTIM WAS DEEPLY UNCONSCIOUS...
NO WAY... SHE RECEIVED INFORMATION ON THE REAR SALON FROM THE VICTIM?

SFX. dash!
HIBINO-SAN!!

.....
...I CAN'T SAY I AM A POLICE-MAN!

IF BY ANY CHANCE THE HOTEL IS INVOLVED WITH THE "REAR SALON"...
EVEN IF I SHOW MY ID, I DON'T HAVE A WARRANT AND I CANNOT CONDUCT A PREMISES SEARCH!

ES-TEEMED GUEST!
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO JAPAN?


ALL THESE PEOPLE WHO LOOK LIKE CELEBRITIES...
WHAT...! IS THIS PLACE?

OUT OF PLACE...
I... AM COMPLETELY...

SFX. ba-dump!

.....
KO... KOKO... KONAT-SU-SEN-PAI!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!?
Hm? We've just had dinner in a three-star Italian restaurant that's all the rage now!

.. AS USUAL, I DON'T GET THIS GIRL AT ALL. .
The lamb was bad and I'll have to deduct points because of their sea-soning, too!

WHATEVER...
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT SHE SAVED ME...

What are you doing, Ikuo-chi?
SFX. step!

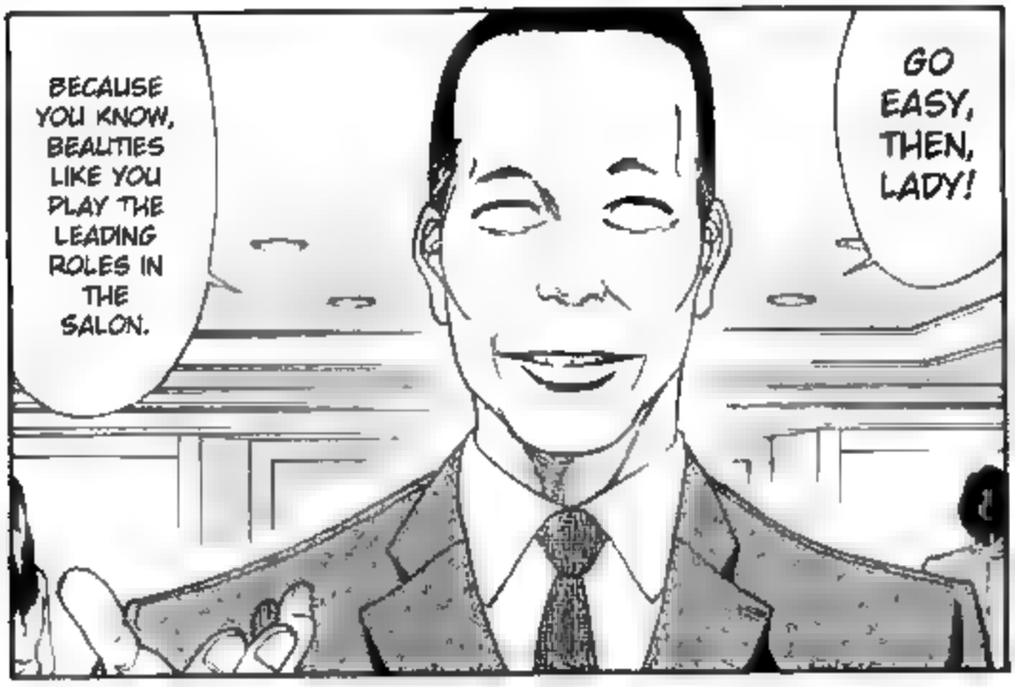
Chief Superintendent Hibino!? Where, where, where!?
Huh!? Hibino-san!?
I THOUGHT SHE WOULD SAY THAT
What business does a brat like you have in a hotel so out of your league like this?
So?
I ENDED UP HERE FOLLOWING HIBINO-SAN...
AH... NO... WELL ...
SFX. turn turn turn
AND BEYOND THAT, IN THE TOP, 52ND FLOOR, THERE'S THIS ROOM IN THE EXECUTIVE SUITE...
THERE ARE MANY SECURITY CAMERAS. . AND THE EMPLOYEES HAVE A STRICT SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM IN PLACE...
AND UNLESS YOU PASS THROUGH THE SEPARATE RECEPTION DESK AT THE 30TH FLOOR, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ENTER THE AREA RESERVED FOR MEMBERS.

THE REAR SALON?
IS THIS...
THANKS FOR THE INFOR-MATION.
IT'S UP TO ME, NOW...
That
SO THIS CARD IS PROOF OF MEMBER-SHIP IN THE REAR SALON?

THE CULPRIT!?
THAT GUY?
Against my will!
That
that guy
That guy did
SFX, tremble! - 3x
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD, DON'T TRY TO SPEAK! I'LL JUST CALL THE NURSE NOW!
WAI... ARE YOU OKAY!?
BLE AAR GH!!
UGH!
HAAH
HAAAH
UGH
SFX, drop!
!
AKU TSU
FUMI
YA...
!?
A
KU
TSU

"AKUTSU FUMIYA"...
A FAMOUS ACTOR, A MALE IDOL IN DRAMAS AND COMMERCIALS... WHO HAS LED A PARALLEL CAREER AS A SINGER. RIGHT NOW, HE IS THE MOST POWERFUL YOUNG STAR AROUND...
WELL, IN ANY CASE...
IS HE THE ONE WHO KILLED TOOYAMA CHIASA!? WHO INFLICTED THAT INJURY ON ANDO SHIORI AND LEFT HER FOR DEAD... THE PERPETRATOR OF ALL THOSE HORRORS? WHAT ABOUT THE SOURCE OF ALL THAT MDMA?
IS HE REALLY THE CULPRIT BEHIND THIS CASE!?

SURELY, THERE WILL BE TWO OR THREE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEEN SOMETHING, RIGHT?
THIS PLACE THESE ARE NOT JUST SHOWBIZ PEOPLE. THERE ARE SPORTING CELEBRITIES, POLITICIANS, FINANCE WORLD FIGURES, JOURNALISTS.

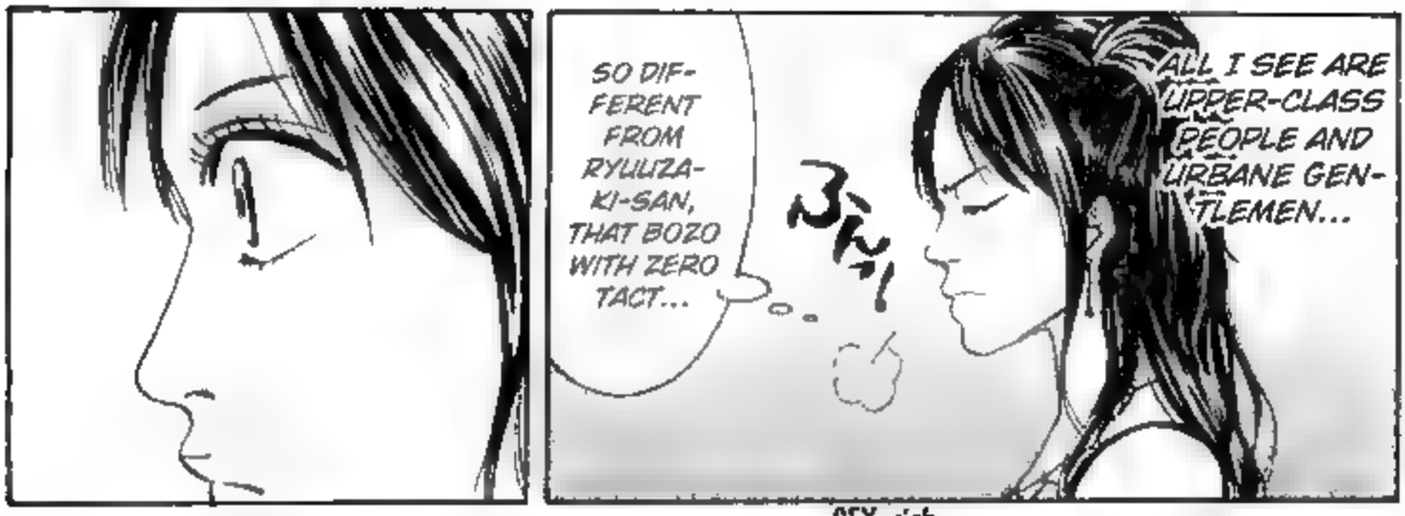

BECAUSE YOU KNOW, BEAUTIES LIKE YOU PLAY THE LEADING ROLES IN THE SALON.
GO EASY, THEN, LADY!

!
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME IN THE SALON?

SFX. bow

ANYWAY, SINCE THIS IS THE SO-CALLED "REAR SALON", I GUESS IT IS A DANGEROUS PLACE, BUT...
I'M SORRY... PLEASE LET ME GO A LITTLE BIT SLOWER ...

WOULD YOU TALK TO ME FOR A BIT?

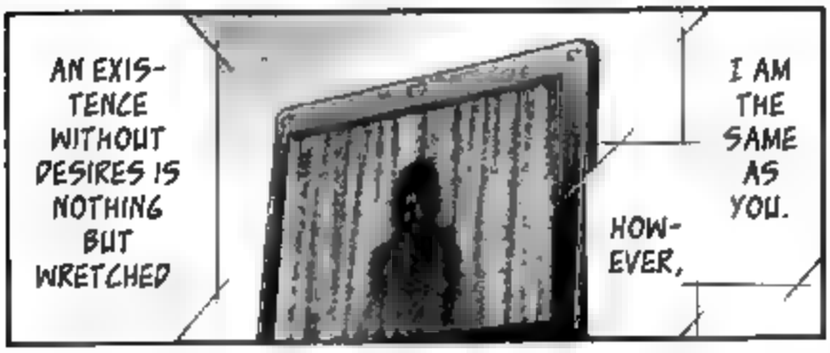

SO DIFFERENT FROM RYUUZAKI-SAN, THAT BOZO WITH ZERO TACT...
ALL I SEE ARE UPPER-CLASS PEOPLE AND URBANE GENTLEMEN...
SFX: sigh

IN THE END, HE HAS THE SAME VICE OF THINKING THAT WOMEN SHOULD BE MADE TO BEHAVE LIKE MEN!!
HIBINO-
SAAA
AN
AND HE SAYS HE IS MY PARTNER...
TSK! WHY AM THINKING OF THAT GUY RIGHT NOW!?

EVERYONE... ARE YOU HAVING FUN?

WHAT?
Someone is talking there

HM?
I'M GOING TO CATCH THIS CRIMINAL EVEN WITHOUT HIS HELP!



SFX. clapping

SFX, clapping
CLICK!
NO WAY, THIS MAN IS THIS SALON'S SPON-SOR!?
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT ..
HUH !?
IT CAN'T BE... WAS MY COVER BLOWN...
DON'T MOVE.

THIS IS JUST A MODEL GUN, A PROP I'M USING IN THE DETECTIVE DRAMA I'M SHOOTING.
Just a new toy...
HAHA, JUUUST JO-KING! ♪
HAVE BEAUTIFUL EYES.
YOU
SFX. smile

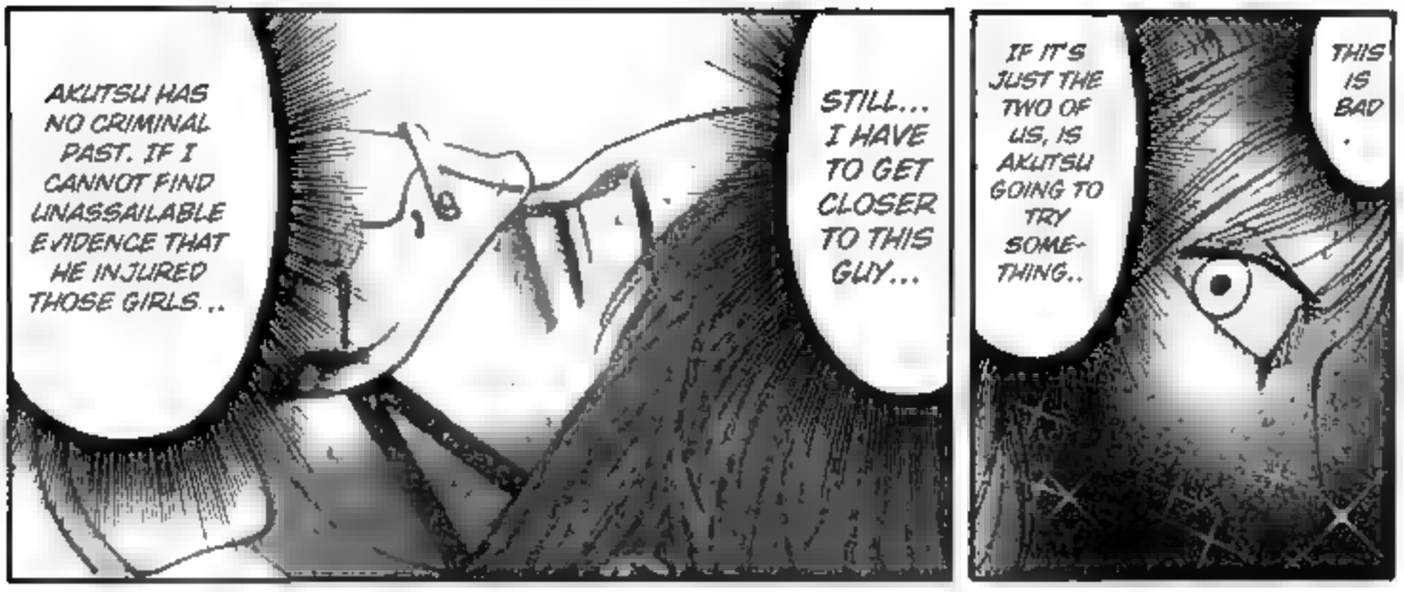
SFX. step step

SFX. press

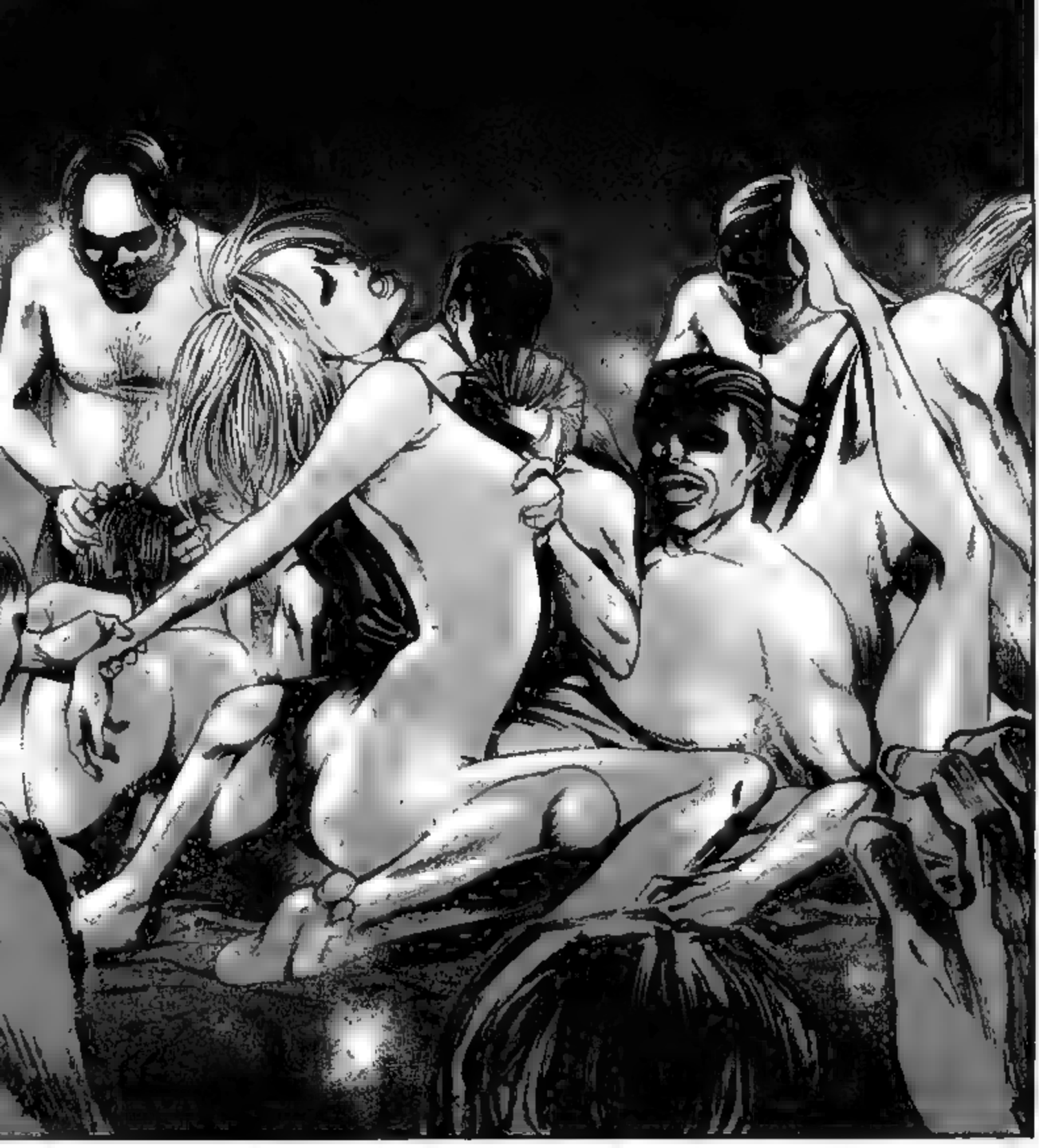
SFX. smile

SFX. ba-dump!

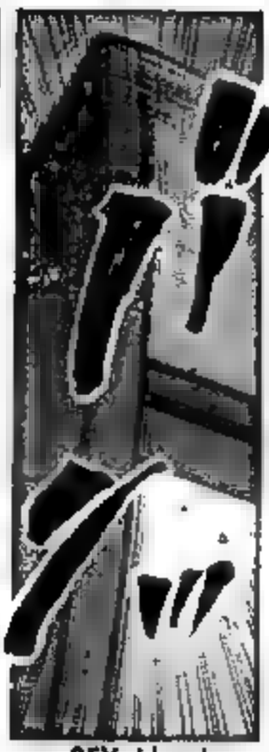
TL note: The wine is real and one of the most expensive in the world.


AKUTSU HAS NO CRIMINAL PAST. IF I CANNOT FIND UNASSAILABLE EVIDENCE THAT HE INJURED THOSE GIRLS..
STILL... I HAVE TO GET CLOSER TO THIS GUY...
IF IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, IS AKUTSU GOING TO TRY SOME-THING..
THIS IS BAD.

SFX. step step step



SFX, thud!



SFX, blam!

SFX, grab!

YOU GAVE ME A BONER. ♪
YOU ARE JUST LIKE THE OTHER STUPID WOMEN WHO COME HERE AND THEN CANNOT READ THE MOOD, AREN'T YOU...
SFX. grind!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THIS IS RUDE, YOU KNOW ...
WAIT ...
WELL THEN ...
SFX. omi-nous
SHALL WE HAVE SOME FUN. TONIGHT?

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

DEATHTOLL

DEATHTOLLSCANS.NET

TRANSLATOR:

WRAITH

PROOFREADER:

HACK

CLEANER:

XLATER

REDRAWER:

ZIPPY

TYPESETTER:

WRAITH

QUALITY CHECK:

WRAITH

THI...
THIS IS... THE "REAR SALON...
THOSE TWO FROM BEFORE...

第63話
OBSESSION

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

THESE GUYS HERE... DO YOU KNOW THEM, BY ANY CHANCE!?
SFX: Ominous
!! THOSE ARE... THE SYNTHETIC NARCOTICS THAT WERE DETECTED IN THE BODIES OF THE PREVIOUS VICTIMS OF THIS CASE...
CU
MDMA!!
SFX: drop!
!
WITH SOME LEMON SODA?
THEY ARE TINY, RIGHT? WANNA TRY THEM

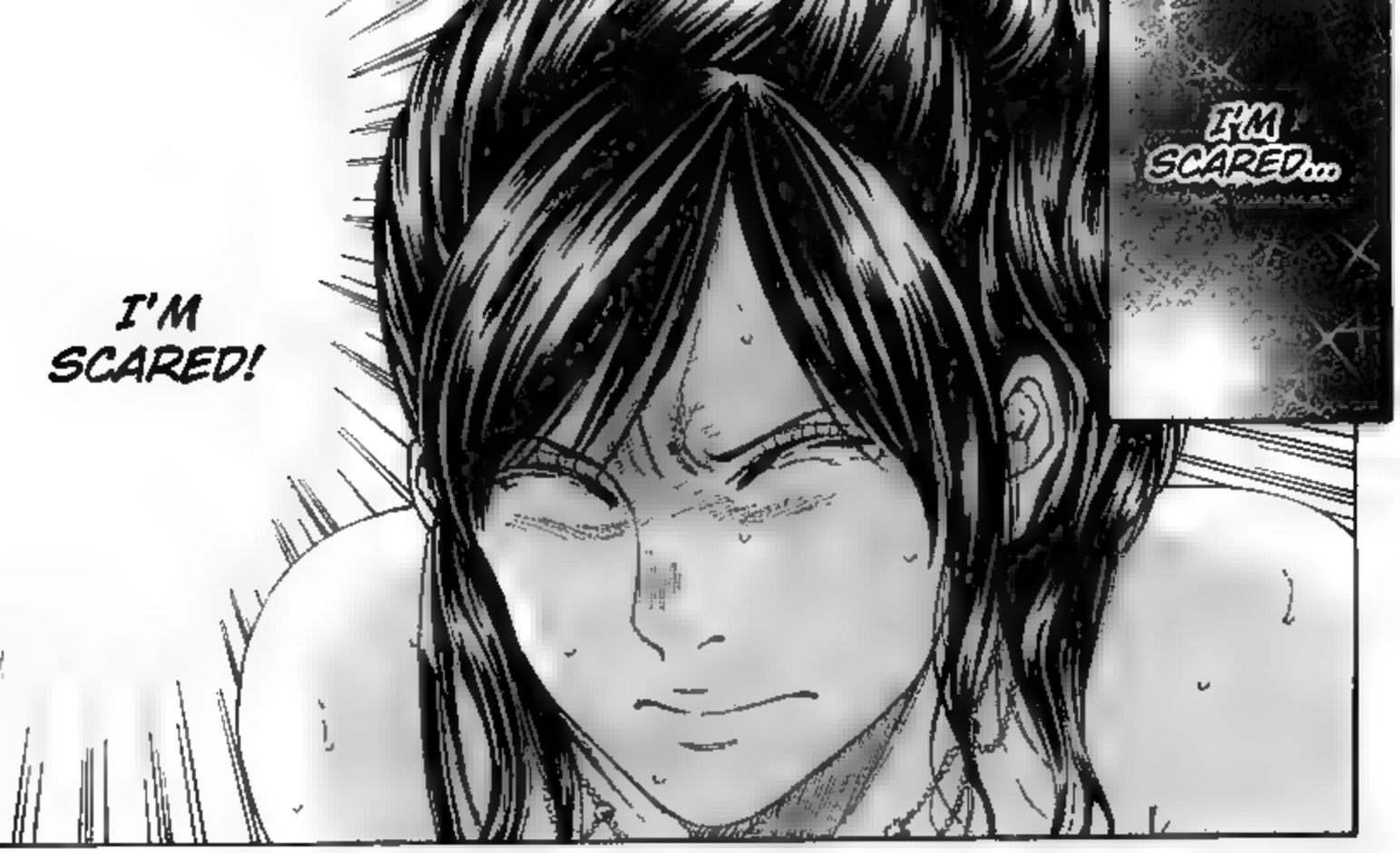
SHALL WE TURN THIS INTO AN AMAZING NIGHT? KUKU...
AKUTSU FUMIYA... AS I SUSPECTED, THIS MAN IS...

SFX: Ominous

LOOK SHARP NOW, AND DRINK IT QUICK!
♪
THE CRIMINAL!?

Aaah!
Eek!
SFX: twitch!
WHY... AM I TREMBLING?
THIS... THIS IS STRANGE...
I THOUGHT THAT EVEN BEING A WOMAN, I COULD COMPENSATE FOR MY LACK OF PHYSICAL STRENGTH BY USING OTHER METHODS.
I SQUARED OFF AGAINST HEINOUS CRIMINALS, ONCE, TWICE AND MORE...
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE THOUGHT OF AS "JUST A WOMAN".
THEREFORE, UP TILL NOW I HAVE RISKED MY LIFE AND TAKEN CASES HEAD ON JUST LIKE MY FELLOW MALE INVESTIGATORS.
AH...

AAAAAA AHN...
NOW, THEN, OPEN YOUR LITTLE MOUTH?
TSK!
BZZZZ BZZZZ
WASN'T THE DINNER TOMOR-ROW NIGHT?
HEY, WHY THE HUH? FUCK...
DAMN!
BZZZZ
FUCK, IT'S MY MAN-AGER!
AT ALL TIMES, STANDING BY MY SIDE...
WAS THAT PERSON...



THE COST FOR TAKING THE ROYAL SUITE WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE INVESTIGATION FUNDS, RIGHT? I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE YEN LEFT!
...SERIOUSLY...

SFXs: step step step

I HAVE TO LOCATE HIBINO-SAN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!
I HAVE HAD TO MAKE SOME RIDICULOUS PROMISES, BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED RIGHT NOW...

AND I'LL HAVE YOUR COOPERATION IN SETTING A DATE FOR ME AND CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT HIBINO.
I... I GET IT!
AND THAT...
IS A PROMISE, RIGHT, IKUO-CHI!

...
SFX: sparkling smile
!
TS/N: SHEEE

COME AGAIN?
...

SFX: kya kya kya kya kya
The tension from you is clearly different from when you were with Bando-san.
In any case, Ikuo-chi, looking this desperately for Midoki-chan, whom do you think you are fidding?

SFX: gaaah!
WAI... WHA... WHA-WHA- WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KONATSU-SENPAI!?
THAT HAS NEVER CROSSED...
Your voice is too loud, Ikuo-chi! It will draw attention!

TH-THAT ...
Do you get me? You have grown to like your partner in a special way, that's what I'm saying.

Come now, to begin with, do you even have proof that Midoki-chan has gone to the Rear Salon?
THAT'S... THAT'S NOT IT!
IF A PARTNER OF MINE IS IN DIRE STRAITS, NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE...

WAI-
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!
Wait... does that mean Ikuo-chi will become my son-in-law in the future?
And it's what I am aiming at with Chief Superintendent Hibino.
It's a very common story between partner detectives who spend time pursuing cases together, after all.
FOR STARTERS, I'VE NO SUCH DESIGNS ON AN ELITE LIKE HIBINO-SAN!
HIBINO-SAN AND I ARE SIMPLY PARTNERS, THAT'S ALL!
SERIOUSLY...
AS IF I HAD ANY TIME TO THINK OF THIS KIND OF THING...
ANYWAY! I'LL SEARCH THIS WAY, AND PLEASE SEARCH THE OPPOSITE SIDE, KONATSU-SENPAI!
Reee-aaaly? Doncha?

AND WE NOW LIVE SOLELY FOR THAT PURPOSE.
TAT-CHAN AND I HAVE BEEN SEEKING REVENGE FOR 15 YEARS...

SFX: wobble
THIS SUDDEN, SHARP PAIN IN MY HEAD...
WHA. . WHAT IS THIS?

WHEN I GET CLOSE TO RECALLING THINGS FROM THAT TIME,
MY HEAD STARTS ACHING AS IF IT WERE ABOUT TO SPLIT!!

SFX: ba-dump!
THIS...
... IS THE SAME AS THE OTHER DAY.

SFX: Throb!
MY SOLE DESIRE IS TO DESTROY YUI-KO-SENSEI'S KILLERS...
!!

NO WAY... IT'S HAP-PENING NOW...?
SFX: thud!
...!
AH...

SFX: ba-dump!

SFX: drip!

WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU...
SFX. sudden appearance
N-NO, IT'S NOTHING... I'M FINE... THAT'S WHY...
AH... NO...
WHAT HAPPENED, HIBINO-SAN!? NO WAY, DID THEY DO ANYTHING TO YOU...
SFX: fidgeting

AND SINCE IT HAS THE SUSPECT'S FINGERPRINTS ON IT, PLEASE HAVE IT ANALYSED BY FORENSICS.
THIS IS PROBABLY THE SAME KIND OF MDMA THAT WAS FOUND IN THE VICTIMS.

I AM SO COMPLETELY AFRAID THAT I CANNOT MOVE MY BODY!
WHEN NECESSITY ARISES, IT WILL BE FINE TO FACE THE CRIMINAL DIRECTLY LIKE THIS IF I GET TO ARREST HIM... EVEN IF I THOUGHT THAT...
THAT'S RIGHT...

BEING ALONE WAS NO BIG DEAL, ALL WENT WELL IN THE END
WHA!? THEN YOU REALLY SNUCK INTO THE REAR SALON ALONE...

WE'LL DEFINITELY CONTINUE THIS THE NEXT TIME WE COME TO THE SALON... RIGHT?
I'M VERY SORRY! I HAVE TO ATTEND [redacted] URGENT MATTERS...
NOW I HAVE TO BABY-SIT SOME SPONSORS IN A DINNER!?
DON'T FUCK WITH ME!!
SFX: crash!
"I'M SAVED", I THOUGHT.
I LOVE YOU.

!
... THIS IS NOT LIKE YOU, HIBINO-SAN.

IS THIS WHAT THEY CALLED MY LIMIT AS A WOMAN?
WHEN FACING A VILE PERPETRATOR WHO PREYS ON WOMEN, I FREAKED OUT AND COMPLETELY FROZE.

SHE WOULD NEVER RESORT TO SUCH A RECKLESS SCHEME AS INFILTRATING THE REAR SALON.
THE HIBINO-SAN I KNOW IS ALWAYS CALM AND COLLECTED,
AND ALWAYS USES HER CORRECT JUDGMENT TO APPROACH AN INVESTIGATION.

!.....
RYUZAKI-SAN IS SERIOUSLY ANGRY...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME, YOUR PARTNER, ANYTHING!?
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CANNOT TRUST IN THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST DIVISION. HOWEVER,

SFX: smile!
HOW DO YOU DO, MIDUKI-CHAN?
I'M ASSISTANT INSPECTOR TAMURA KONATSU FROM THE PERSONNEL AND TRAINING BUREAU, WORKING DIRECTLY UNDER YOUR FATHER. NICE TO MEET YOU.

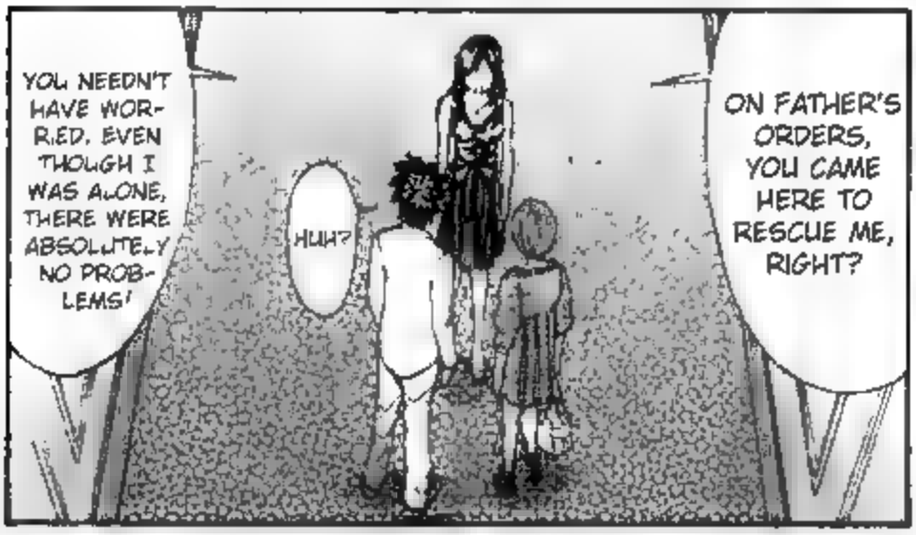
FATHER'S!?

You must be relieved, right, Ikuo-chi?
Ah! There you are, Miduki-chan!
!

KONATSU-SENPAI, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO IMPLY WITH THAT FACE?
Part Part
Iku... Ryuzaki-kun was all worked up and kept telling me Please help me save Hibino-san! ...
If it's this kid, he will be absolutely desperate...

TS/N: Kid this, kid that... How old is this loli?

SFX: Ikihihi...


YOU NEEDN'T HAVE WORRIED. EVEN THOUGH I WAS ALONE, THERE WERE ABSOLUTELY NO PROBLEMS!
HUH?
ON FATHER'S ORDERS, YOU CAME HERE TO RESCUE ME, RIGHT?

HE IS THE SAME AS THE OTHER MALE INVESTIGATORS!
HE IS NOT TRYING TO SHOW ANY SYMPATHY TO THE VICTIMS. OR TO UNDERSTAND THEIR FEELINGS

NOT LONG AGO, THE SECOND DIVISION'S THEFT BUREAU SENT A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION OFFICERS TO AID THE 11TH TEAM.
I AM MORE THAN ENOUGH TO WAIT UPON THE VICTIM, SO... PLEASE OFFER THEM YOUR ASSISTANCE, RYUZAKI-SAN.
LET'S PUT AN END TO OUR PARTNERSHIP, RYUZAKI-SAN.

UNLESS WE CAN UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS, WE CANNOT BE PARTNERS.
WAIT A MINUTE! I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOU, HIBINO-SAN...

SFX: pass

AND YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND MINE, RYUZAKI-SAN.
NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

KH!!

DEAR DEAR...
HIBINO-SAN, YOU IDIOT!
DAMN, THIS SUCKS...
IT SEEMS I SAID MORE THAN I SHOULD HAVE...
STUB-BORN BLOCK-HEAD!!

DEATHTOLL

DEATHTOLLSCANS.NET

TRANSLATOR:

WRATH

PROOFREADER:

HACK

CLEANER:

XLAGLE

REDRAWER:

SARKYMAS./ZIPLY

TYPESETTER:

YOTHEN

QUALITY CHECK:

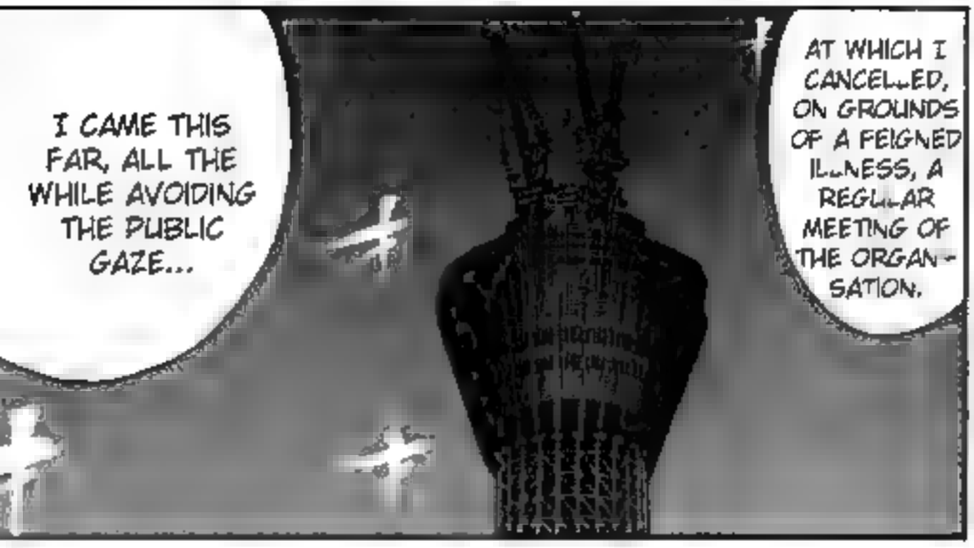
WRATH

DT

DEATHTOLLSCANS.NET

信

SFX: wind blowing


I CAME THIS FAR, ALL THE WHILE AVOIDING THE PUBLIC GAZE...
AT WHICH I CANCELLED, ON GROUNDS OF A FEIGNED ILLNESS, A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ORGANISATION.

SFX: crack crack

WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF HAVING ME LISTEN TO YOUR INCONSEQUENTIAL BULLSHIT,
AND USING AN UNTRACEABLE, ANONYMOUS MOBILE PHONE, YOU SUMMONED ME HERE,

TS/N: Read Damno's lines in Chris Nolan's Bane's voice and get ready to shit bricks.

第64話
CHAPTER 64: ACT
YOU AND THAT HIBINO MIDUKI'S LOVER'S QUARRELS, SERIOUSLY...
Ouch...
SFX: impressive appearance
WHY SHOULD I GIVE A DAMN? BLOCKHEAD...

... AH, RIGHT, I'M SORRY, IT WAS MY BAD TO SAY THAT...
HUH? BUT OTHER THAN YOU, TAT-CHAN, I HAVE NO FRIENDS...

IKUO... I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS, BUT DID YOU FORGET OUR GOAL?
THIS KIND OF TRIVIAL STORY IS BEST TOLD TO FRIENDS!

AND YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS, RYUZAKI-SAN.
I DIDN'T THINK HIBINO-SAN WAS THIS STUBBORN, PIG-HEADED EVEN...

WELL... IN SUMMARY, YOU HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO CARRY OUT ROUTINE DUTIES IN ANOTHER DIVISION. AND EVER SINCE, YOU AND HIBINO MIDUKI ARE NOT ON TALKING TERMS?
YES...

YOU ARE A FOOL.
SHE SAID THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS TO ME, HER PARTNER...

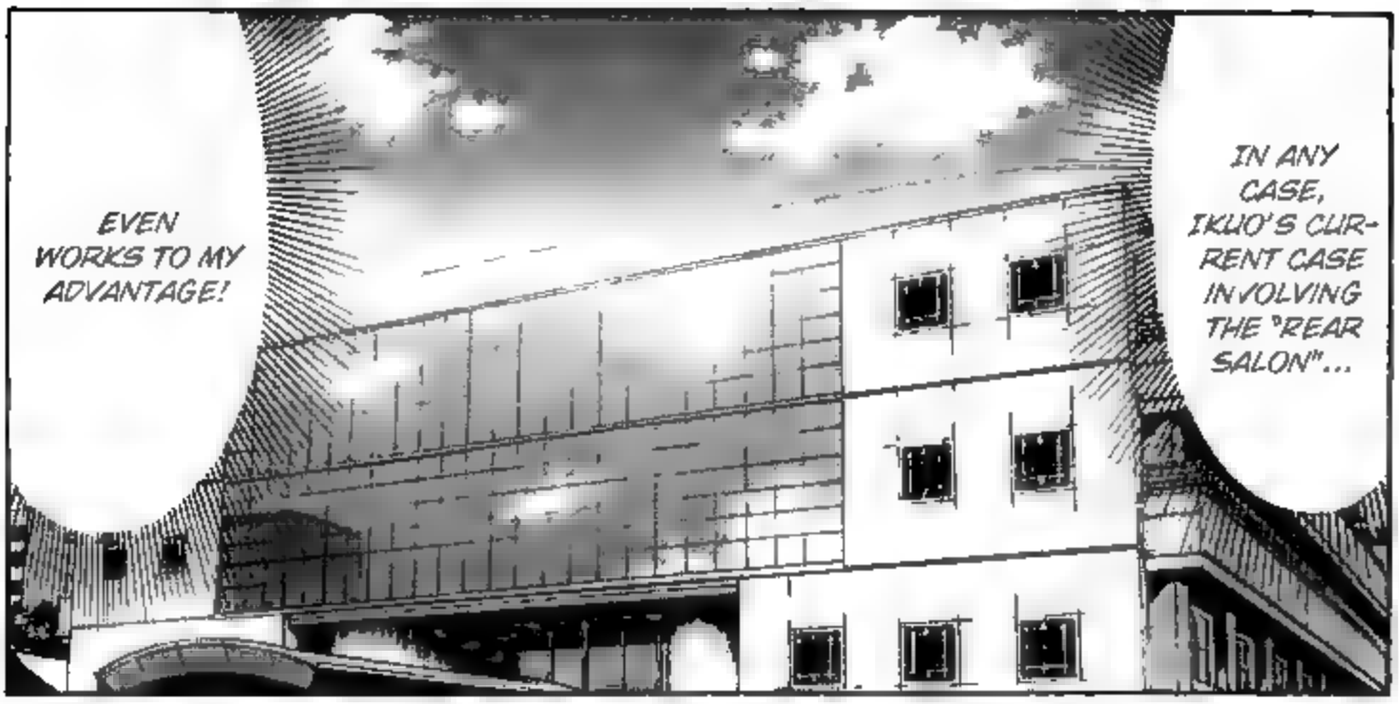
HIBINO MIDUKI ADOPTING THIS OBNOXIOUS ATTITUDE,
IS SURELY BECAUSE SHE THINKS OF YOU AS HER PARTNER, GOT IT?

STILL...

...?
WHAT?
THIS SHIT-FOR-BRAINS ...

I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT ACTING AS HIS FOSTER PARENT, BUT
I CAN AT LEAST LISTEN TO HIS GRUMBLING AS A FRIEND
?
?

IT'S A FIRST FOR THIS FELLOW TO GET THIS DISTRESSED OVER ANY PERSON OTHER THAN ME.
?


EVEN WORKS TO MY ADVANTAGE!
IN ANY CASE, IKUO'S CURRENT CASE INVOLVING THE "REAR SALON"...

STEP!
STEP!

STEP!
STEP!
STEP!

SFX: Gasp
AND WHY DIDN'T YOU NOTIFY THE FIRST DIVISION ON THE SPOT!?
YOU INFILTRATED THE REAR SALON ON YOUR OWN!? YOU IDIOT!!
TS/N: Cause she's a strong, independent woman who don't need no man.
YOU HAVE SHOWN CONTEMPT TOWARDS THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THIS INVESTIGATION AND YOU HAD BETTER BE PREPARED, BASTARD, BECAUSE THIS TIME YOUR BEHAVIOUR WILL BE DULY SANCTIONED!
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY JUST BECAUSE THE MDMA YOU OBTAINED WITH AKUTSU'S FINGERPRINTS IS THE SAME VARIETY AS THE ONE IN THIS CASE!
YOU'RE SUCH A SOFTIE... SERIOUSLY
WHY ARE YOU SO FULL OF YOURSELVES... THE VICTIM'S SORROWS, I WAS JUST...
HOWEVER, AT THE TIME I ACTED TO PREVENT THE APPEARANCE OF A NEXT VICTIM. THERE WAS NO TIME TO TAKE MATTERS TO CONSIDERATION BY THE INVESTIGATION HEADQUARTERS!
WAI...
WAIT A SECOND! I HAVE CERTAINLY PONDERED THE BREACH OF PROCEDURE MY ACTIONS REPRESENTED!

I WONDER IF YOU HAVE SHOWN SUCH EMPATHY FOR THE VICTIM BECAUSE SHE WAS A WOMAN...
WOMEN ARE ALL LIKE THAT... "SENTIMENTAL BEINGS", SHALL WE SAY?

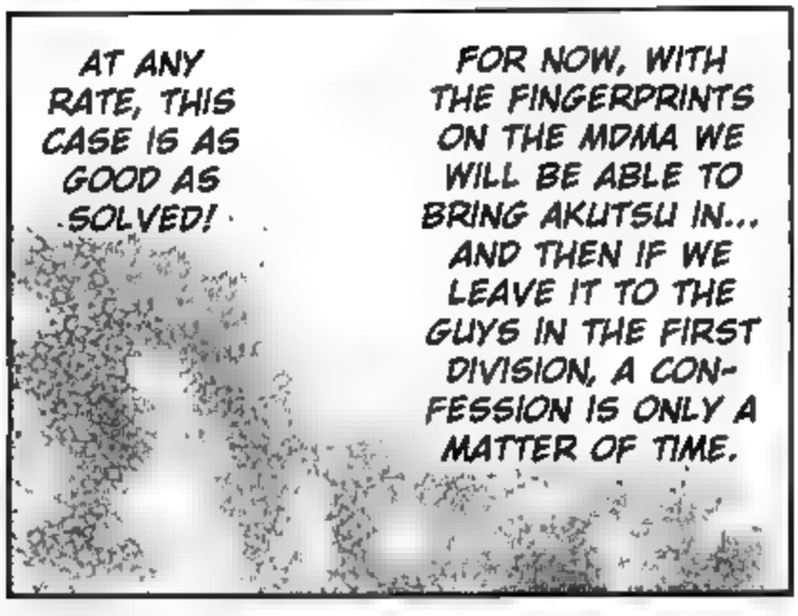
THE PLACES ARE DIFFERENT, BUT I SAW MYSELF IN THOSE VULNERABLE WOMEN...
THE POLICE AND THE WORLD OF SHOW BUSINESS...
... IT WAS MORTIFYING, BUT... HE HIT THE BULL'S EYE.

TL note: Hibino is not demeaning herself, she is just reflecting on the attitude towards her by the rest of the investigators.

THAT'S WHY, USING MY OWN METHODS...
THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE IS THE CORNERSTONE OF THE POLICE FORCE... BUT, BEING JUST A WOMAN, I AM UNABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE INVESTIGATION.

"YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS, RYUZAKI-SAN"
"NOT BY A LONG SHOT."

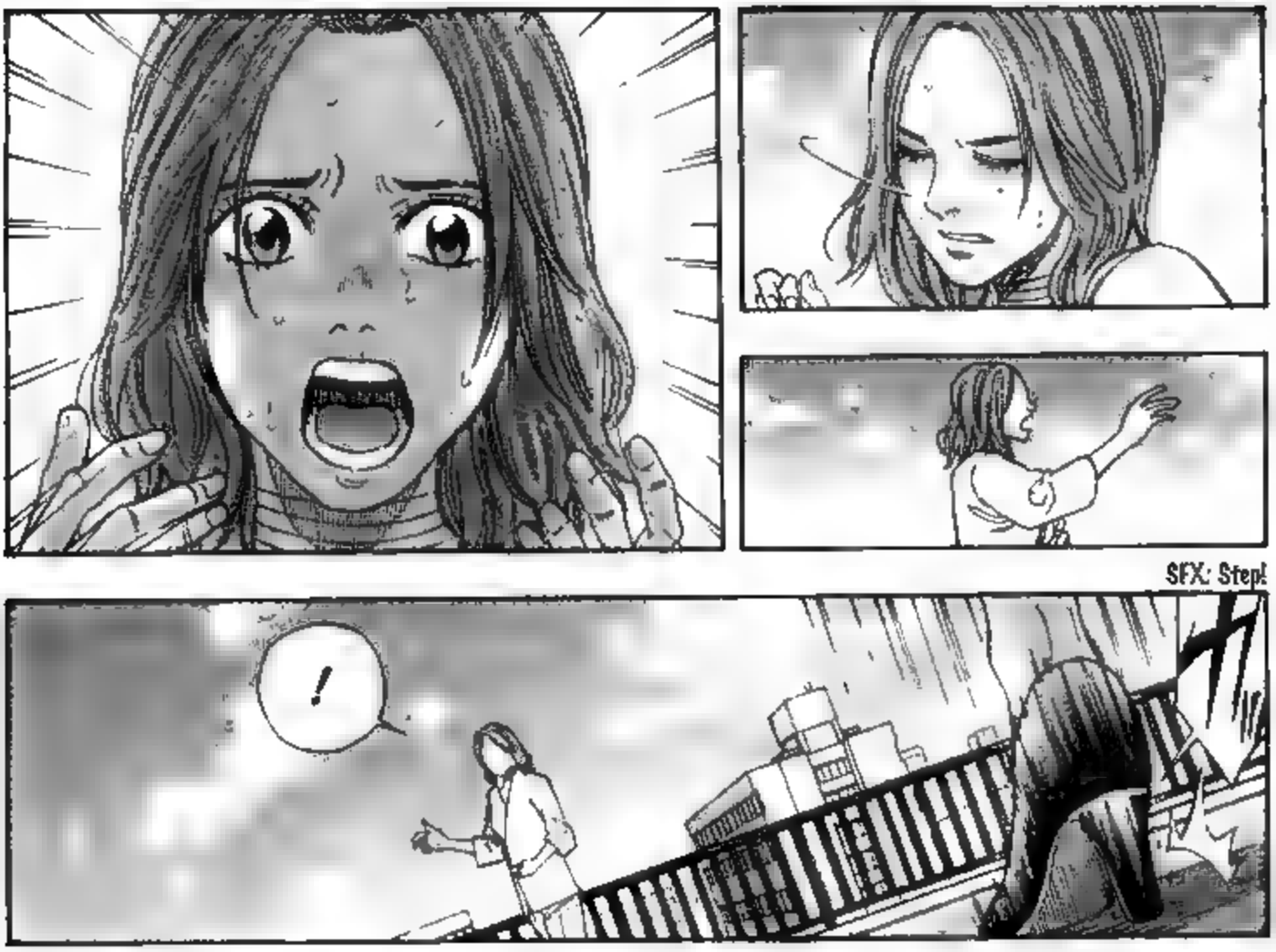
SFX: shake shake


AT ANY RATE, THIS CASE IS AS GOOD AS SOLVED!
FOR NOW, WITH THE FINGERPRINTS ON THE MDMA WE WILL BE ABLE TO BRING AKUTSU IN... AND THEN IF WE LEAVE IT TO THE GUYS IN THE FIRST DIVISION, A CONFESSION IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

RYUZAKI-SAN...

SFX: slide...
!!
ANDO-SAN... IS NOT HERE!?
SFX: looking around
IT HAS BEEN LESS THAN A WEEK SINCE THE INCIDENT... IT'S NOT AS IF SHE CAN MOVE FREELY YET...
HER BAG... THEN, SHE WASN'T DISCHARGED... OF COURSE, NO WAY SHE WOULD HAVE...
WHERE THE HECK IS SHE!?
!

Kinp
SHAN
INC
AH!
THESE ARE THEATRICAL FLYERS...
WHERE ON EARTH IS ANDO SHIORI-SAN...
EXCUSE ME. . I'M A POLICE OFFI-CER...
THAT GIRL, AGAIN! SHE IS IN NO CONDITION TO GO AROUND CLIMBING STAIRCASES AND YET...

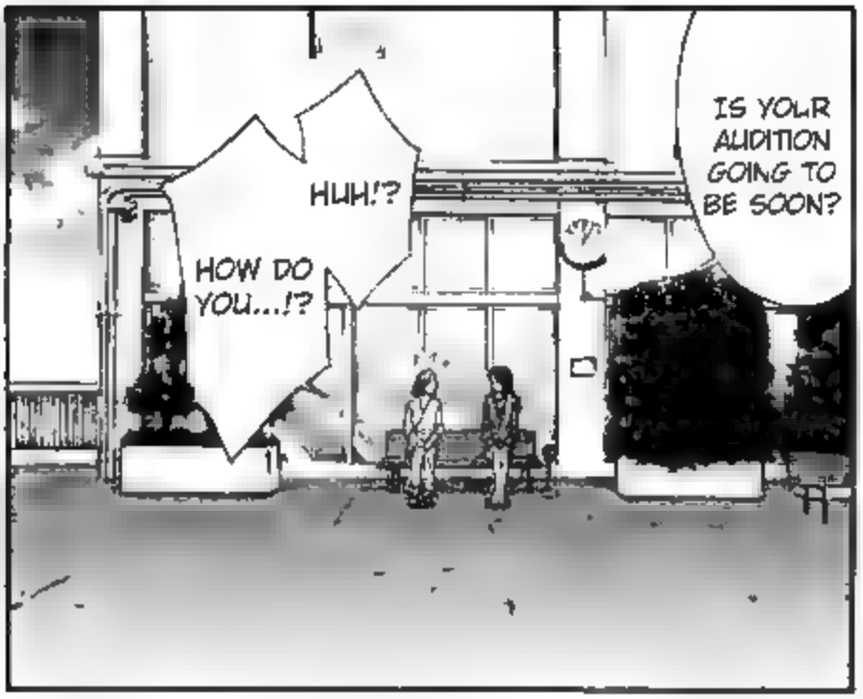


SFX: spacing out

TS/N: I detect a slight flair for the stupid, mmyeah.

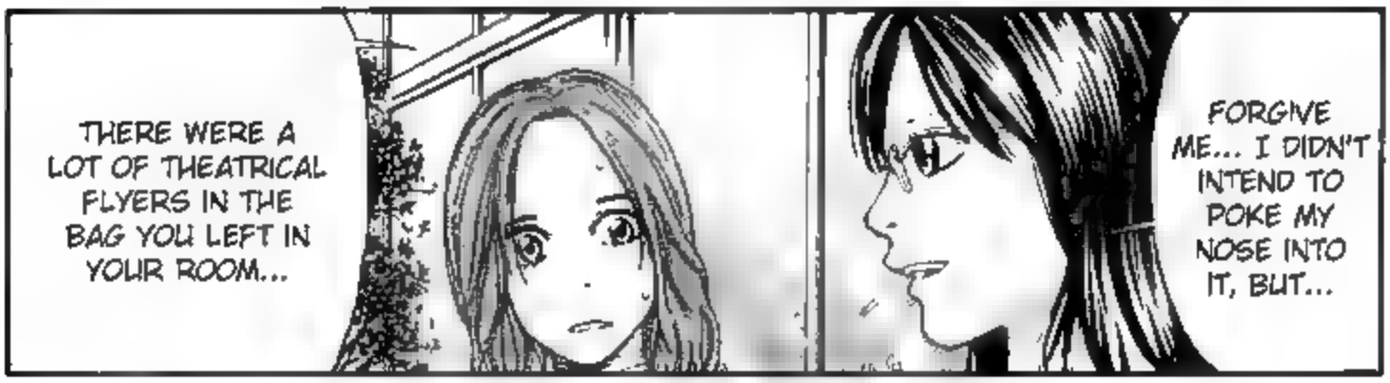
SFX: Haa, haa, haa

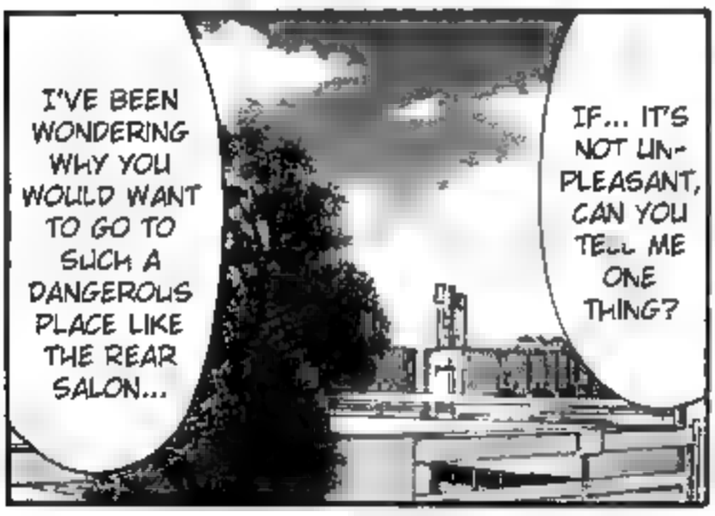
SFX: grab!

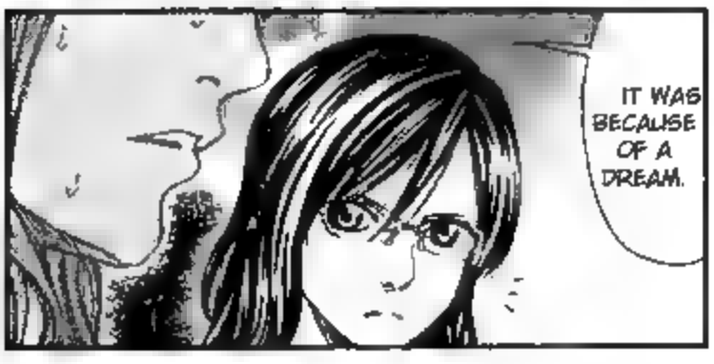

IS YOUR AUDITION GOING TO BE SOON?
HUH!?
HOW DO YOU...!?

SORRY ...
AH, SO

SFX: hmph...
ふう…


THERE WERE A LOT OF THEATRICAL FLYERS IN THE BAG YOU LEFT IN YOUR ROOM...
FORGIVE ME... I DIDN'T INTEND TO POKE MY NOSE INTO IT, BUT...

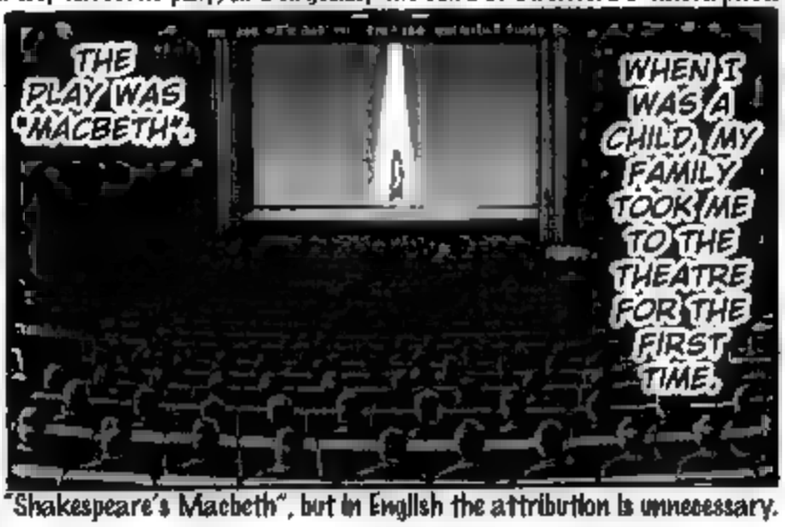

I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY YOU WOULD WANT TO GO TO SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE LIKE THE REAR SALON...
IF... IT'S NOT UNPLEASANT, CAN YOU TELL ME ONE THING?


IT WAS BECAUSE OF A DREAM.

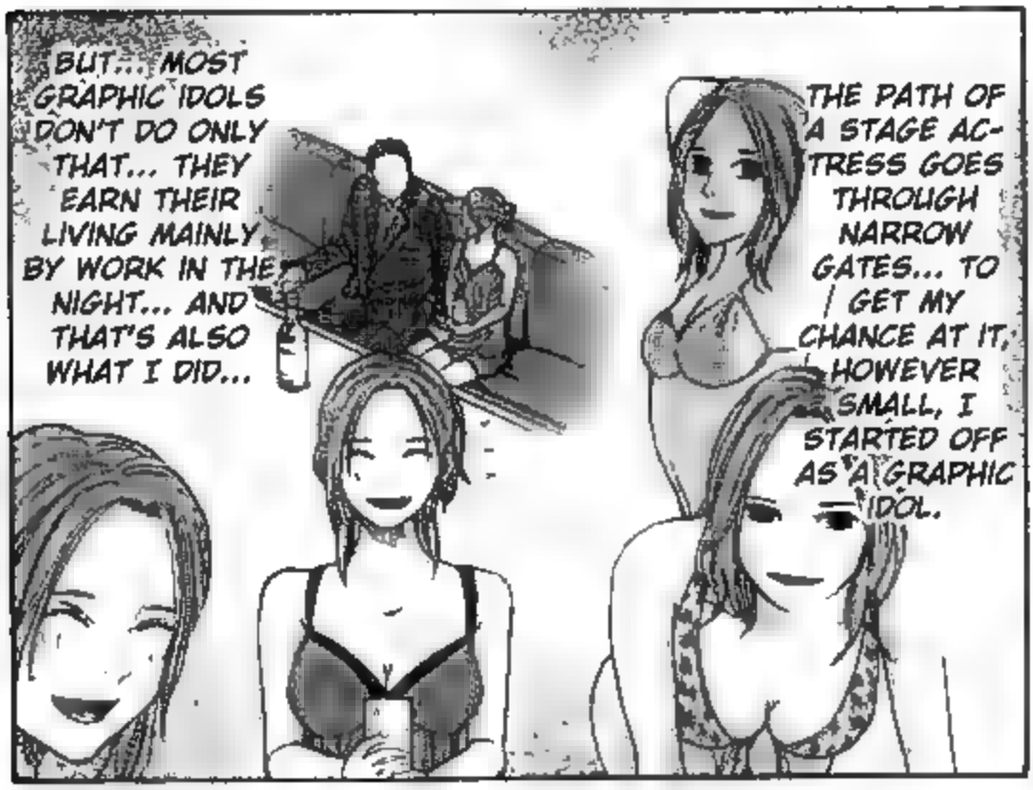
BESIDES, AMONG GRAPHIC IDOLS,
I HEAR THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE... WHO REALLY ASPIRE TO PURSUE AN ACTING CAREER.

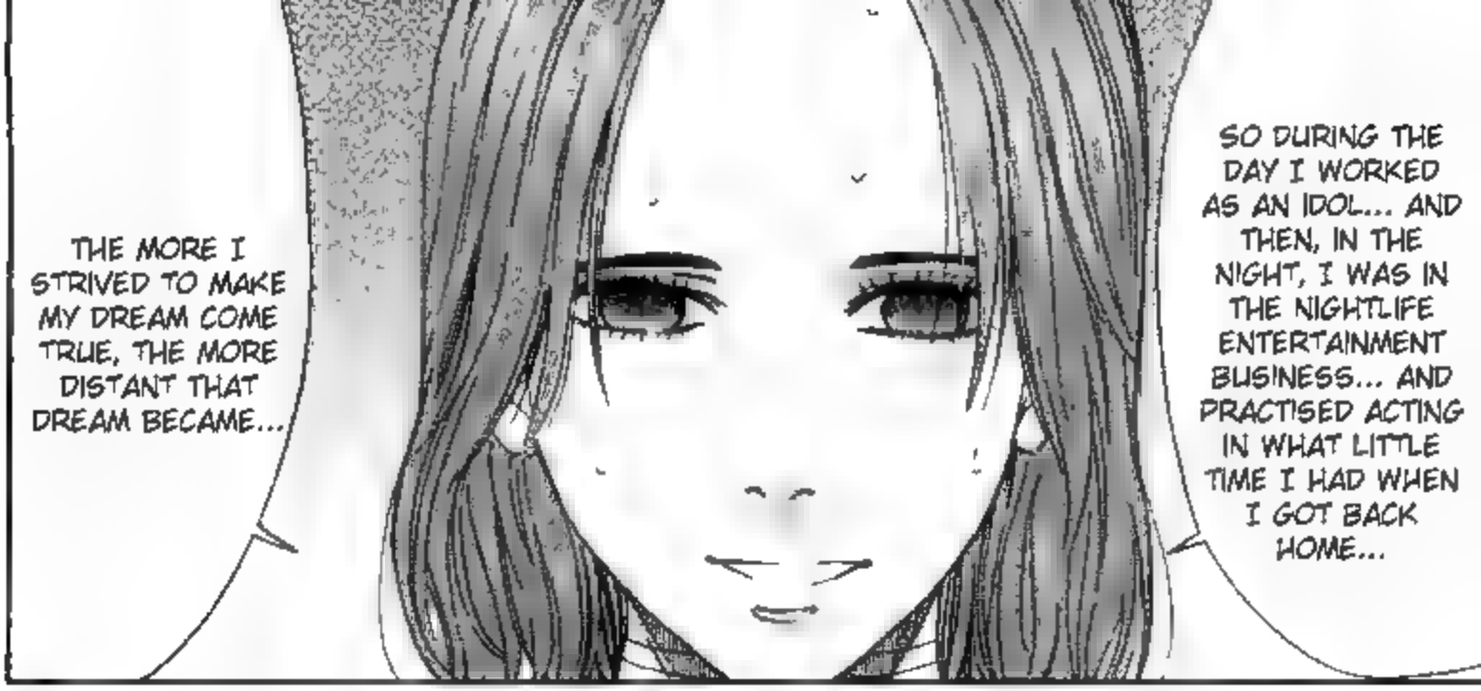
TL/N: My favourite play, and arguably the Bard of Stratford's masterpiece!

"I ALSO WANT TO SHINE ON THAT STAGE", I THOUGHT.
THE ACTRESS DOING LADY MACBETH WAS INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL... I WAS INSTANTLY CAPTIVATED.

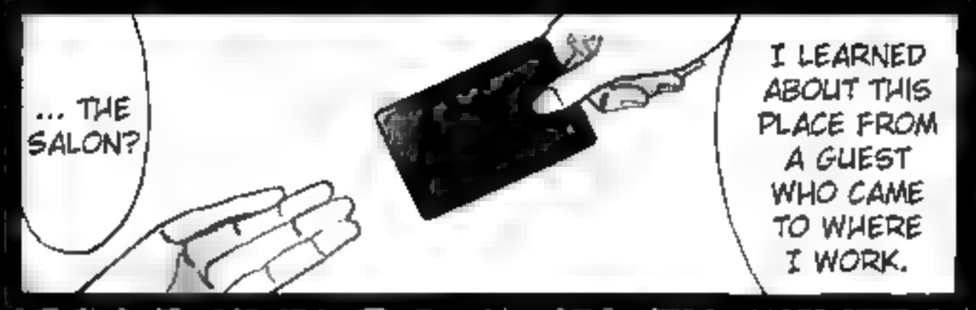


Actually, she says "Shakespeare's Macbeth", but in English the attribution is unnecessary.

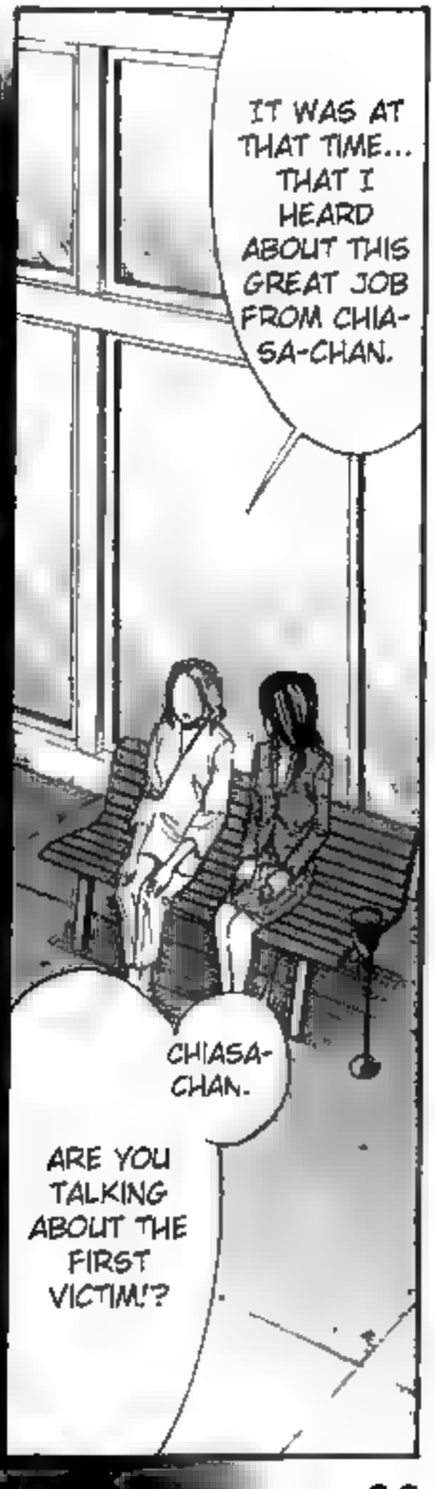

BUT... MOST GRAPHIC IDOLS DON'T DO ONLY THAT... THEY EARN THEIR LIVING MAINLY BY WORK IN THE NIGHT... AND THAT'S ALSO WHAT I DID...
THE PATH OF A STAGE ACTRESS GOES THROUGH NARROW GATES... TO / GET MY CHANCE AT IT, HOWEVER SMALL, I STARTED OFF AS A GRAPHIC IDOL.

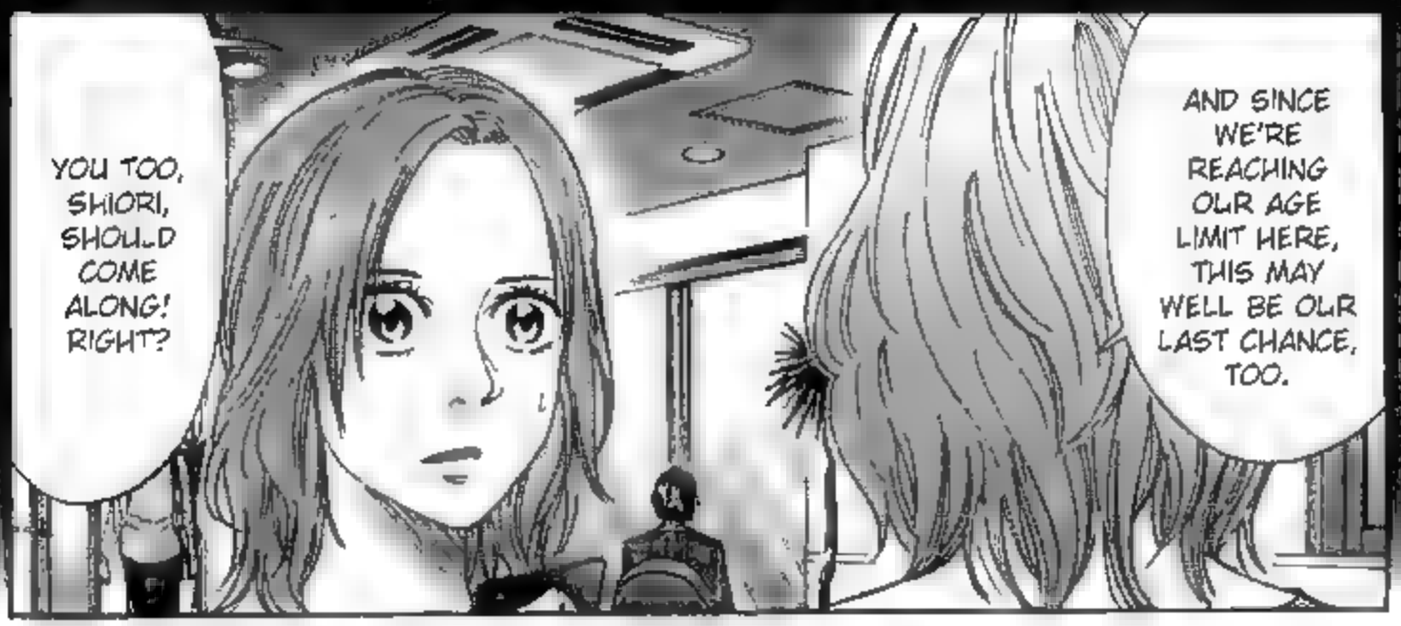

THE MORE I STRIVED TO MAKE MY DREAM COME TRUE, THE MORE DISTANT THAT DREAM BECAME...
SO DURING THE DAY I WORKED AS AN IDOL... AND THEN, IN THE NIGHT, I WAS IN THE NIGHTLIFE ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS... AND PRACTISED ACTING IN WHAT LITTLE TIME I HAD WHEN I GOT BACK HOME...

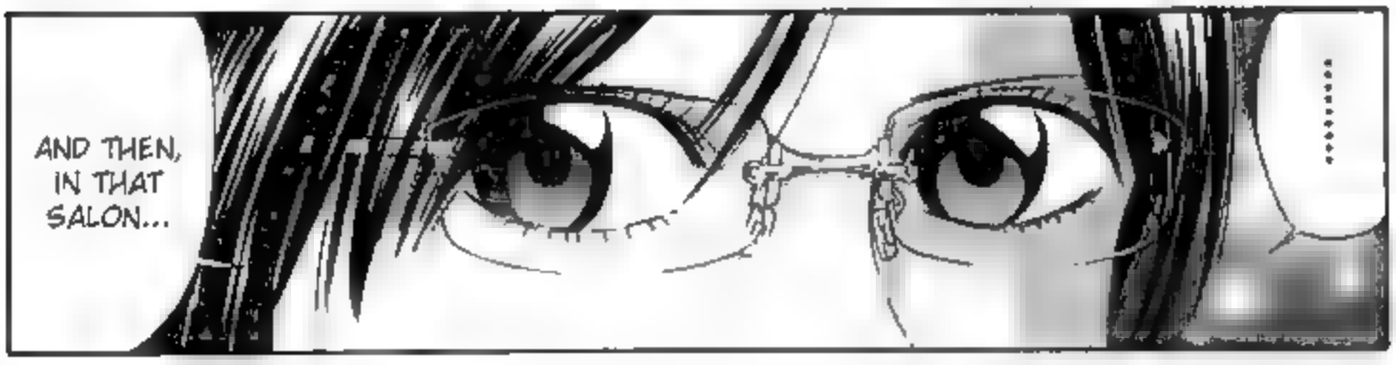
SHE REALLY ASPIRED TO BECOME A SINGER, SO OF COURSE TWO GIRLS CARRYING SIMILAR DREAMS GOT ALONG WELL...
CHIA-SA-CHAN AND I WERE FROM DIF-FERENT AGENCIES BUT GOT CLOSE...


... THE SALON?
I LEARNED ABOUT THIS PLACE FROM A GUEST WHO CAME TO WHERE I WORK.

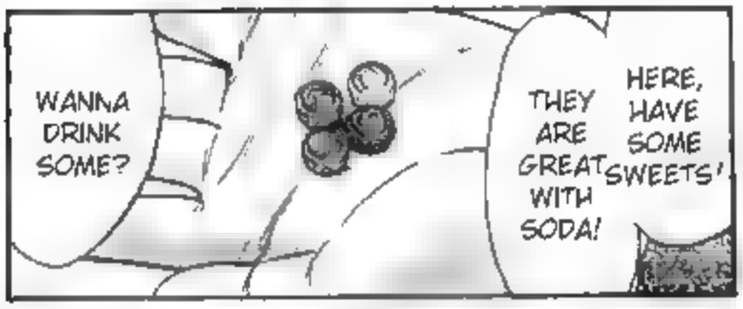
That may be our chance!
All sorts of showbiz people, like big-shot pro-ducers and famous theatre directors, are regulars there!


IT WAS AT THAT TIME... THAT I HEARD ABOUT THIS GREAT JOB FROM CHIA-SA-CHAN.
CHIASA-CHAN.
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE FIRST VICTIM!?





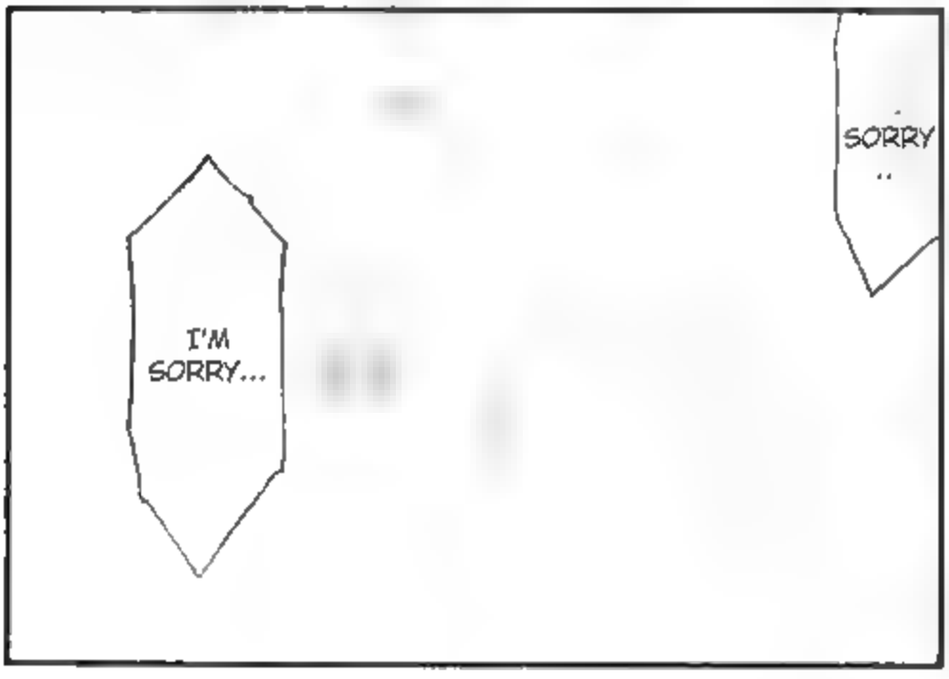
TS/N: That's the smile of a conman tho.



AND HE EVEN SAID HE WOULD INTRODUCE ME TO DIRECTORS I ADMIRED... I COMPLETELY FELL FOR THAT...
WHEN I MET A CELEBRITY OF AKUTSU'S CALIBRE THERE, I WAS ECSTATIC...

WE WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT OF GOING THERE!!
IF CHIASA-CHAN AND I HAD KNOWN FROM THE BEGINNING THAT THERE WAS A TERRIFYING PLACE LIKE THAT IN THE SALON

AKUTSU WILL BE ARRESTED BY THE POLICE SOON. PLEASE LEAVE THE REST TO US!
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, SHIORI-SAN...


I'M SORRY...
SORRY..

BUT... CHIASA-CHAN WILL NEVER COME BACK.
I ALONE WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE RESCUED...

I WAS... A FOOL... I REALLY WAS...
I AM SOR- RY!!

STILL... IS THIS JUST A COINCIDENCE?
APPREHENDING AKUTSU IS A JOB FOR THE HIGHER-UPS... THERE IS NOTHING MORE I CAN DO...
WELL, BE THAT AS IT MAY... IT'S ALL OVER, NOW.
HUH?
.....

AFTER ALL, IF WE ARREST HIM, MUCH BIGGER FISH WILL ESCAPE. WE WON'T BE ABLE TO CORNER THE SPONSORS OF THE REAR SALON, WILL WE?
YOU WILL LET AKUTSU FUMIYA BE.
SFX. slide
I AM GOING TO OVER-LOOK YOUR OUTRAGEOUS INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOUR THIS TIME. IN RETURN
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY, DIRECTOR TAKENOUCHI?
SFX. flap!
SFX: turn!
WILL YOU INFILTRATE THE PLACE JUST A LITTLE LONGER, ASSISTANT INSPECTOR HIBINO?
IF you please
IN ORDER TO EXPOSE THE MASTERMIND

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

DEATHTOLL

DEATHTOLLSCANS.NET

TRANSLATOR:

WRAITH

PROOFREADER:

HACK

CLEANER:

XMAN, WRAITH

REDRAWER:

SARRYMAST

TYPESETTER:

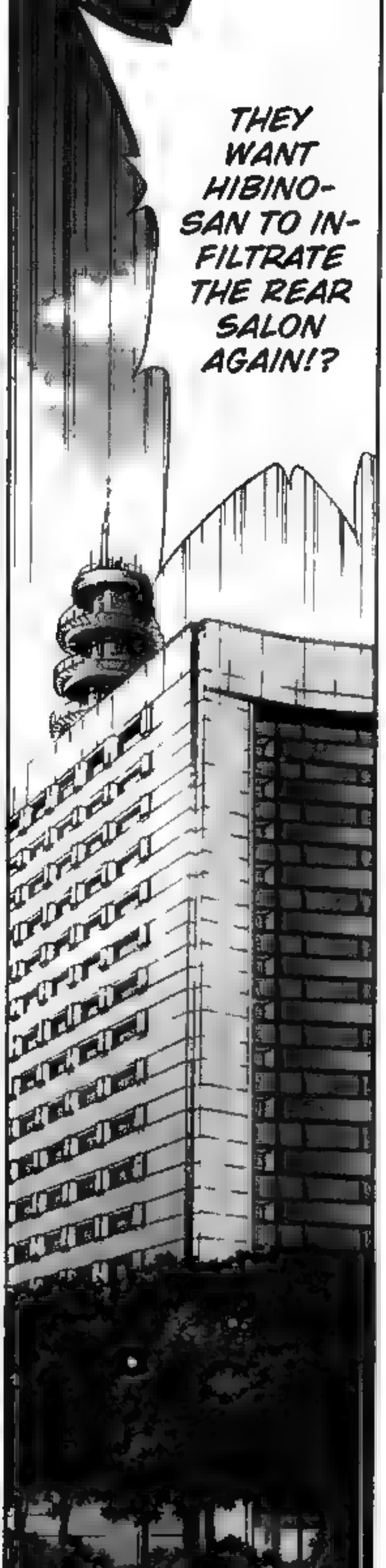
YOTHEN

QUALITY CHECK:

WRAITH

PLEASE, INFILTRATE THE PLACE ONCE AGAIN!
SO WE CAN EXPOSE THE PERSON OR PERSONS BEHIND THE REAR SALON, ASSISTANT INSPECTOR HIBINO MIDUKI,
SFX. ba-dump!
AND IN THAT PLACE!!
TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION UNDERCOVER ONCE MORE...

釣
第65話
CHAPTER 65: HOOK



IN OTHER WORDS, THIS TIME IT IS A DIRECT INFIL-TRATION UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE HEAD-QUARTERS.
IT SEEMS TO BE A DIRECT ORDER FROM MARO.

TS/N: Because Hibino looks good and I demand fan service.

AND ABOVE ALL, THE MYSTERIOUS SPONSOR OF THE PLACE!
THE PEOPLE OF POWER AND INFLUENCE WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE REAR SALON...

THEY ARE LETTING AKUTSU FLY.
MARO HAS HIS SIGHTS ON MUCH BIGGER FISH.

BY CATCHING THE MASTERMIND OF THE REAR SALON, HE PROBABLY WANTS TO IMPROVE HIS STANDING WITHIN THE FACTION.
WITHIN THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL FACTION, HE HAS LITTLE EXPERIENCE AND HIS ACHIEVEMENTS ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN.

I AM TOTALLY AGAINST THIS STRATEGY!!
SO YOU ARE SAYING HIBINO-SAN IS GOING TO BE USED AS BAIT FOR SOME GIANT FISH, IS THAT IT!?

JUST WHAT... IS THIS ABOUT?
UNFORTUNATELY, IT SEEMS THAT BECAUSE OF HER PREVIOUS INFILTRATION, AKUTSU HAS BECOME INTERESTED IN HIBINO.
HIS GOAL IS TO PULL IN THE MASTERMIND THROUGH AKUTSU.

WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO BUTT IN, TO BEGIN WITH?
IN ANY CASE, RYU-ZAKI...
SFX: clap!
TH-THAT ...
AFTER DIS-AGREEING STRONGLY WITH HIBINO, YOU LEFT THE INVESTIGATION AND RELOCAT-ED TO OTHER CASES, RIGHT?
HUH?
IT APPEARS THAT HIBINO HAS GLADLY CONSENTED.
SFX: grab!
!!
DESERT-ING YOUR PARTNER... I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU,
YOU SPINE-LESS FUR-BALL!!

AH, MIDUKI-SAN, THANKS FOR COMING AGAIN!
HOW ARE YOU DOING, SHIORI-SAN?
I SEE... THAT'S GREAT.
I CAN EAT PROPERLY NOW.
MY CONDITION... HAS IMPROVED A LOT.
...
IF IT GETS TOO MUCH DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP, OKAY?
ALTHOUGH YOUR BODY MAY HAVE HEALED, YOUR HEART WILL TAKE A LITTLE LONGER, RIGHT?
BUT DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD!

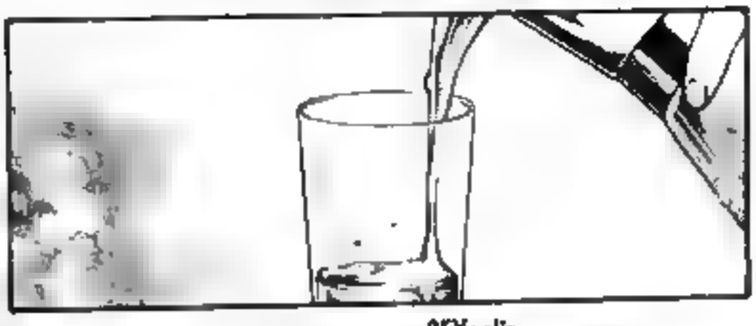
YES...
THANK YOU, MIDUKI-SAN.
WELL, I'VE GOT WORK WAITING FOR ME, SO...
CLICK!
HIBINO-SAN... DON'T GO!

YOU WILL JUST MAKE A FOOL OF YOURSELF IF YOU STUBBORNLY RISK YOUR DEATH TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL!
MARO IS USING YOU TO SCORE AN ACHIEVEMENT AND GAIN INFLUENCE IN HIS FACTION.

SFX: click!

SFX: bow bow

TS/N: Pat pag nose tho.



SFX: slip

SFX: turn!

TL Note: This is not, I repeat it, not romantic feeling. The wording in Japanese is neutral.

SFX: grab!

TL Note: He used a full imperative, quite a shocking thing to do in Japanese.

TL note: same as before. The original sentence in Japanese does not convey romantic feeling.

THE TRUTH IS THAT I, TOO, HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF MY POSITION.
AND EVEN THOUGH I THINK OF THOSE ASSOCIATIONS AS UNPLEASANT...
UP TILL NOW, BECAUSE I AM A FEMALE INVESTIGATOR...
BECAUSE I AM CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT HIBINO'S DAUGHTER...

HIBINO-SAN...

WAS THAT HE HAD SEEN THROUGH ME.
I THINK THAT THE REASON I FELT SO INSULTED BY DIRECTOR TAKENOUCHI, AND SO ANGRY,

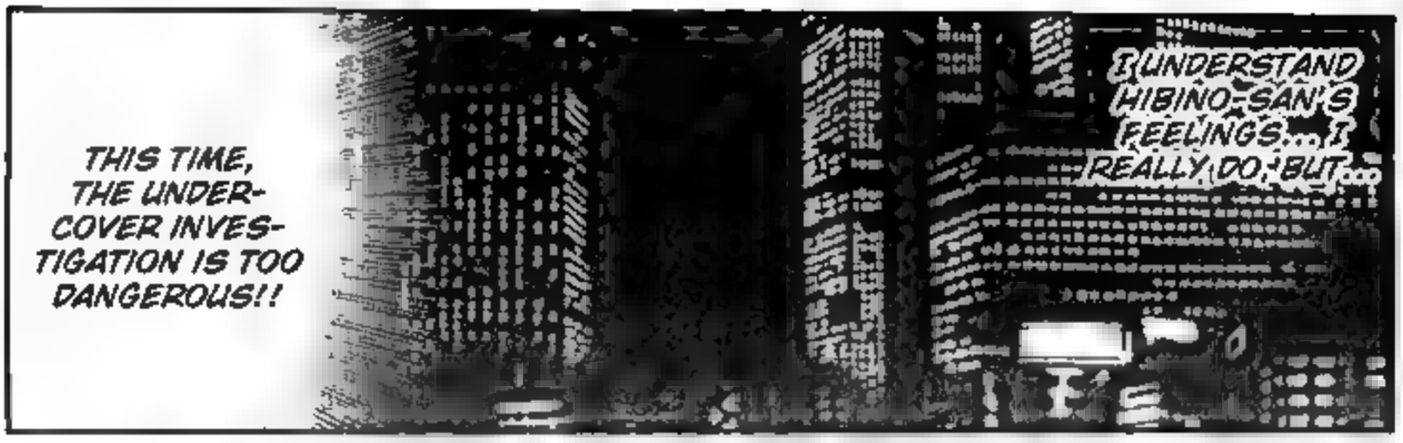
THE WAY I AM NOW, I AM NOT QUALIFIED TO BE YOUR PARTNER, RYUZAKI-SAN.
THAT'S WHY, RYUZAKI-SAN, PLEASE...

BEING AWAY FROM THE POLICE STRUCTURE... AND THEN IN A SITUATION WHERE I COULDN'T COUNT ON YOU, RYUZAKI-SAN... I COULDN'T HANDLE BEING ALONE WITH AKUTSU.
THAT ONE WAS THE REAL ME.

LET ME DO THINGS MY WAY!!
JUST THIS TIME,

HIBINO-SAN!!

IS THE REASON YOU WERE SENT FROM THE 11TH TEAM TO HELP ME THROUGH IT... RIGHT?
THAT WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE HUGE LEDGER BOOKS KEPT BY PAWN SHOPS UNTIL TOMORROW, AND SEARCH THEIR REPORTS OF STOLEN GOODS BROUGHT IN BY CRIMINALS...
THIS IS RATHER DIFFICULT, RYUZAKI-KUN
WELL, THEN, COME BACK HERE AT ONCE, YOU STUPID BRAT!!
YE... YES, SIR!!
N-NO... NOTHING OF THE KIND.
WAIT... OR PERHAPS YOU ARE TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF THE SECOND DIVISION'S THEFT BUREAU?
YOU SPINELESS FURBALL!!
DESERTING YOUR PARTNER... I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU.
BEEP
SFX: crowd noises
I HAVE TO GO BACK TO HEADQUARTERS SOON
AAH WHAT SHOULD I DO..


THIS TIME, THE UNDER-COVER INVES-TIGATION IS TOO DANGEROUS!!
I UNDERSTAND HIBINO-SAN'S FEELINGS... I REALLY DO. BUT...

IF THINGS GO SOUTH AND SOME-THING HAP-PENS TO HIBINO-SAN, MARO AND THE OTHERS IN HEAD-QUARTERS WILL HAVE THEIR HANDS TIED!
BESIDES, AN INFILTRATION OF THIS KIND IS, IN AND OF ITSELF AN INFORMAL PROCEDURE AND THUS ILLEGAL.

HIBINO-SAN, I'M SORRY...
IN THE END, I AM...

LET ME DO THINGS MY WAY!!
JUST THIS TIME,

DEATHTOLL

DEATHTOLLSCANS.NET

TRANSLATOR:

WRAITH

PROOFREADER:

HACK

CLEANER:

XLAZE

REDRAWER:

SARRYMAST

TYPESETTER:

YOTHEN

QUALITY CHECK:

WRAITH, YOTHEN

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DEATHTOLLSCANS

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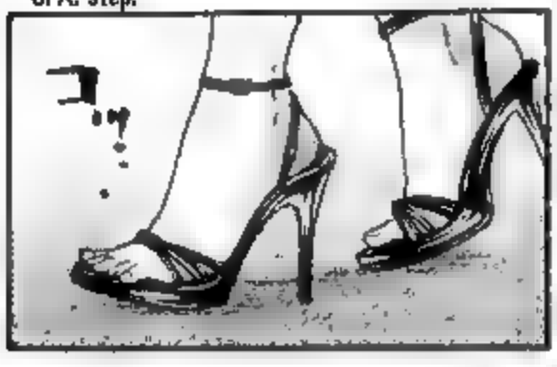
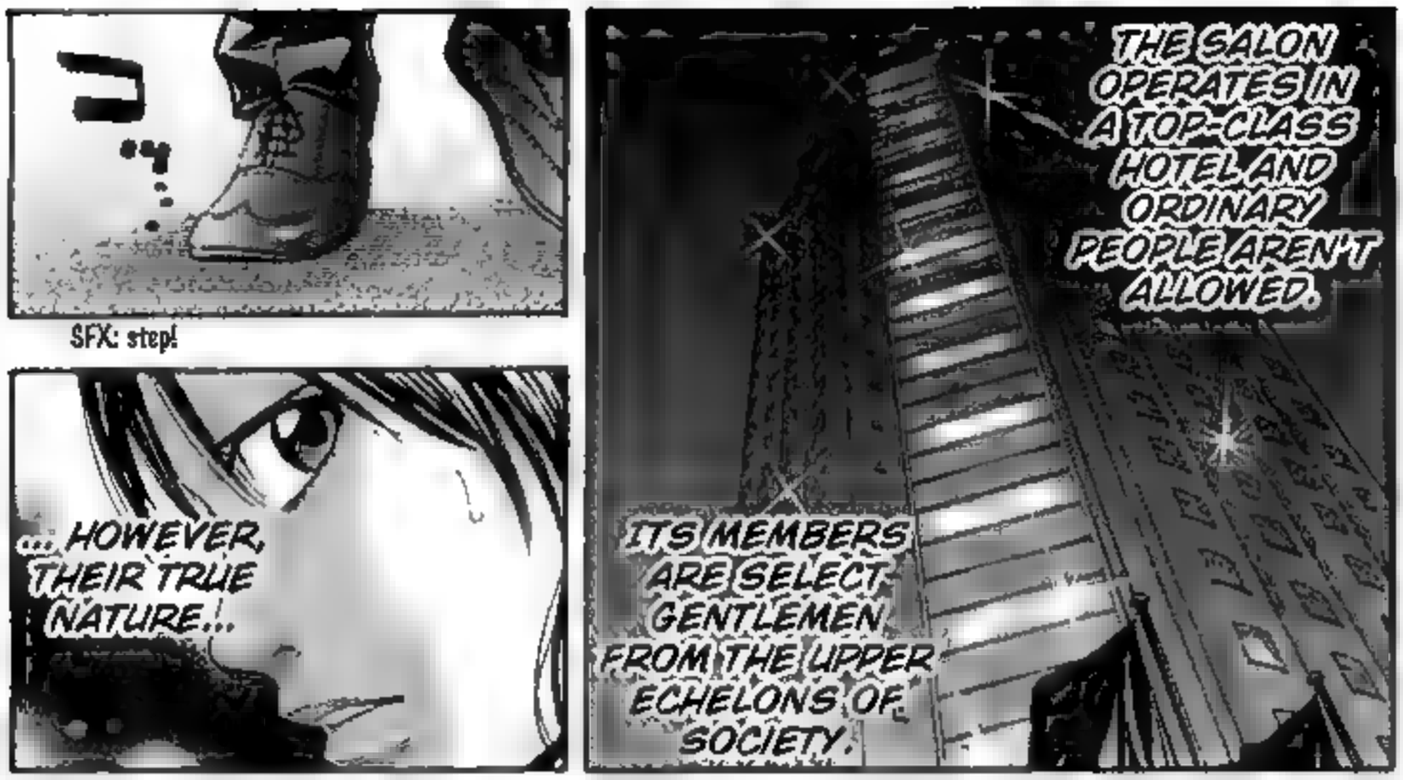
SFX: step!



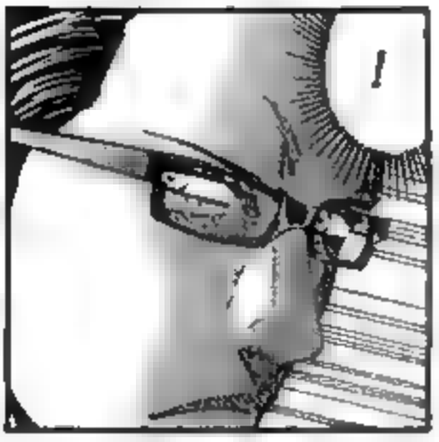

SFX: step!
... HOWEVER, THEIR TRUE NATURE...
THE SALON OPERATES IN A TOP-CLASS HOTEL AND ORDINARY PEOPLE AREN'T ALLOWED.
ITS MEMBERS ARE SELECT GENTLEMEN FROM THE UPPER ECHELONS OF SOCIETY.

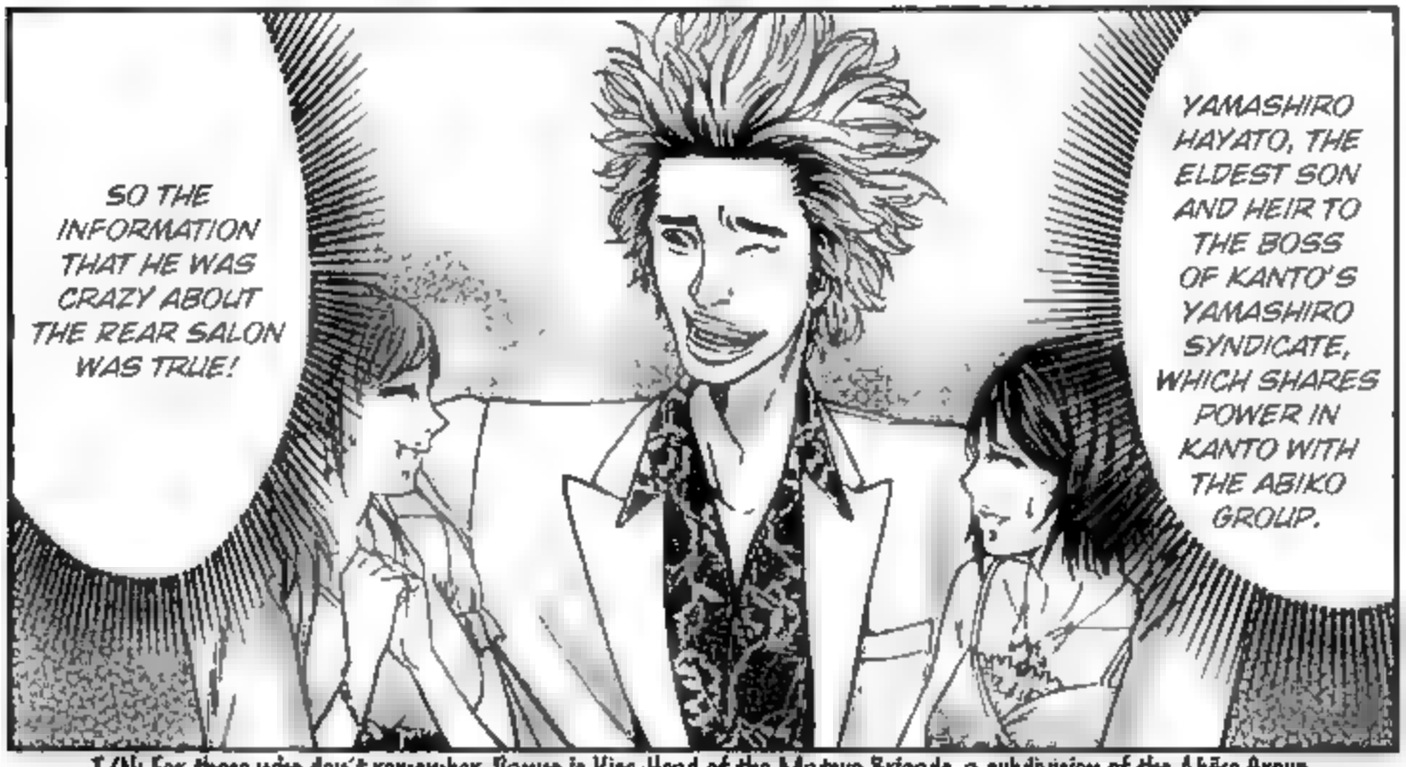
第66話
CHAPTER 66: DEGRADING

BESIDES... I THOUGHT I WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET YOU IF I CAME HERE AGAIN, SO...
AH, THAT COULDN'T BE HELPED, SINCE YOU ARE SUCH A FAMOUS ACTOR, AKUTSU-SAN!
I'M SORRY FOR THE OTHER DAY, JOB STUFF JUST KEEPS POPPING UP!
WHILE FILMING, I KEEP FORGETTING MY LINES TO THE POINT THAT IT IS EMBARRASSING.
SINCE THE DAY I MET YOU, YOU HAVEN'T LEFT MY MIND.
TO BE FRANK, I WAS ALSO SURPRISED...
?
YES... ME, TOO...
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU.
WELL, FIRST OF ALL, LET'S MAKE IT JUST THE TWO OF US.

.....
SFX: glance
OH...
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
I HAVE COME TODAY TO BRING THE SAME WINES ORDERED PREVIOUSLY BY THE GUESTS, AS PLANNED
... ARE YOU THE WINE CONCIERGE?
YES, SIR.
ESTEEMED GUESTS, I HAVE BROUGHT WINE
UNTIL THIS IS OVER, THE REAL CONCIERGE WILL DO US A FAVOUR AND SLEEP.
... I HAD TO BE A LITTLE ROUGH, BUT IT COULDN'T BE HELPED.
TOILE

HIBINO MIDUKI IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN...
.....
I'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF SHE IDENTIFIES ME.
SO YOU WILL RESCUE HER, IKUO.
UNDER-STOOD.
I EN-TRUSTED HIM WITH HER, BUT APART FROM THAT...
I CAME TO THE REAR SALON
WITH A SPECIFIC GOAL!

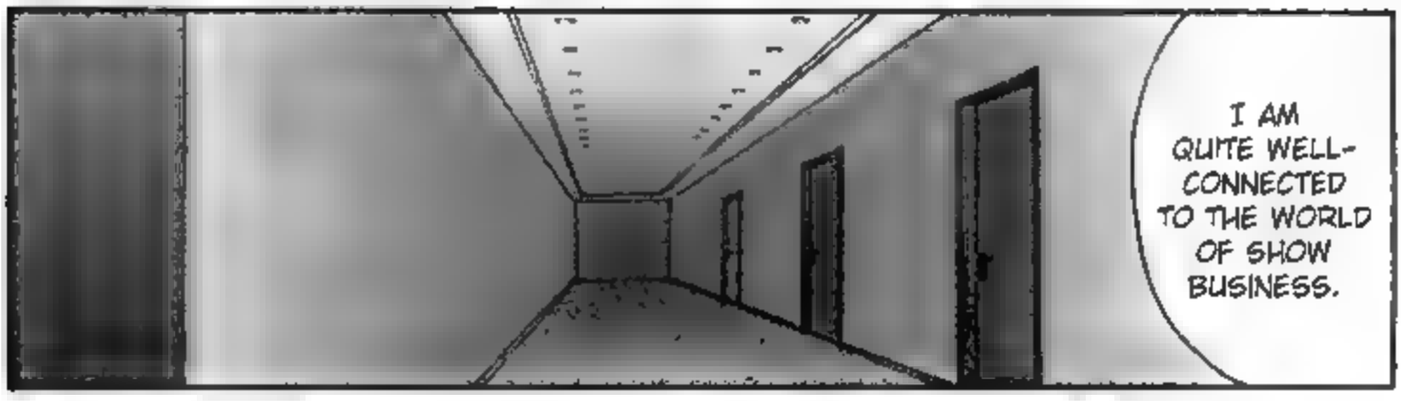



SO THE INFORMATION THAT HE WAS CRAZY ABOUT THE REAR SALON WAS TRUE!
YAMASHIRO HAYATO, THE ELDEST SON AND HEIR TO THE BOSS OF KANTO'S YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE, WHICH SHARES POWER IN KANTO WITH THE ABIKO GROUP.

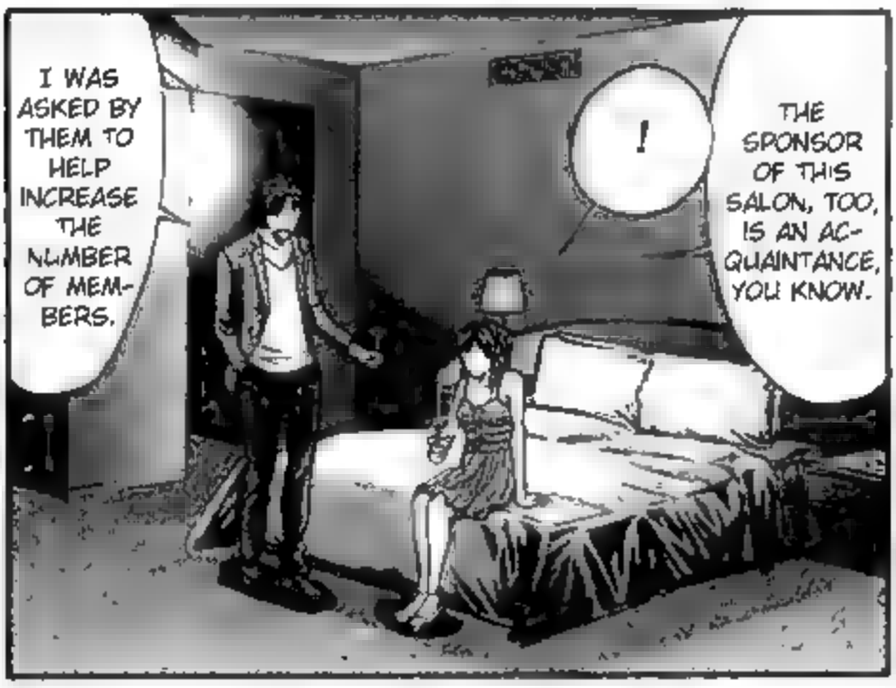
T/N: For those who don't remember, Danno is Vice-Head of the Matsuo Brigade, a subdivision of the Abiko Group.

AND YET, REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH I PRESSED MY INFORMERS, IT'S STILL UNCLEAR WHO THE PEOPLE ON THE POLICE'S SIDE ARE...
ACCORDING TO MY INVESTIGATION, THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE HAS BACK-DOOR DEALINGS WITH BIG SHOTS OF THE MPD.
Whee!
KYA-HAHA-HAHA!

MY INTUITION WAS ON THE MARK!!
...IT APPEARS THAT
SFX: slip...
NEXT TIME WE WILL BE ABLE TO USE THIS TO STRIKE AT ZERO!!
THOSE CREEPS FROM ZERO ARE BABY-SITTING HAYATO, IS THAT IT?
SO THE UNKNOWN POLICE OFFICER WAS REALLY, AS I THOUGHT... OH WELL, IF NOTHING ELSE...


I AM QUITE WELL-CONNECTED TO THE WORLD OF SHOW BUSINESS.

AH, ENOUGH OF THAT NOW!
THAT SPON-SOR... JUST WHO ON EARTH...


I WAS ASKED BY THEM TO HELP INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEM-BERS.
!
THE SPONSOR OF THIS SALON, TOO, IS AN AC-QUAINTANCE, YOU KNOW.

SFX: smile!

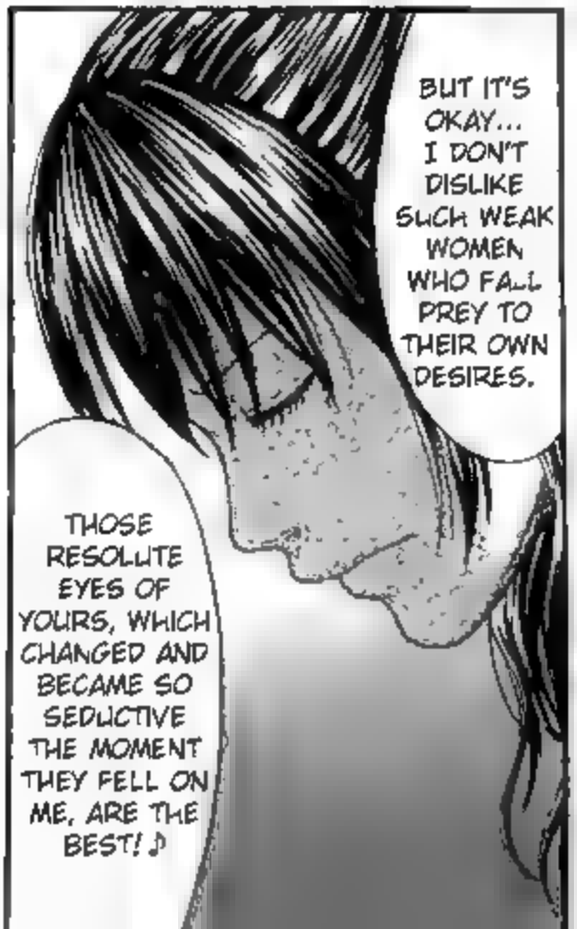
AND SO...

AND SINCE I HAVE QUITE A FEW ACQUAIN-TANCES IN THE DIRECTION OF MY TV CHANNEL, I'LL ALSO GIVE YOU A LITTLE PUSH IN ADVANCE
I AM GOING TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE PRESIDENT OF A VERY POW-ERFUL COM-PANY IN THE WORLD OF SHOWBIZ!

!
... YOU BAD BOY.
IS THAT WHAT YOU SAY THAT TO ALL THE PRETTY GIRLS?

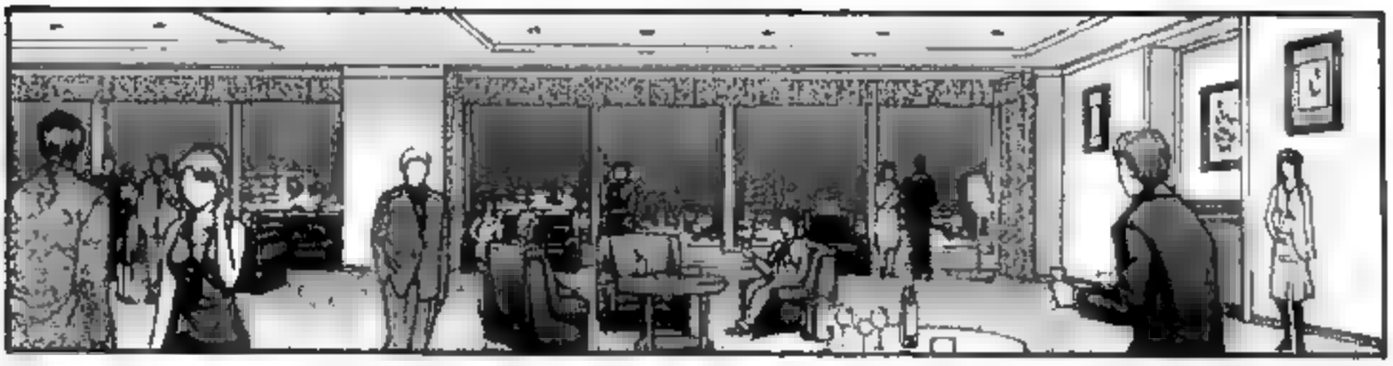
IT'S ALL ABOUT MEN OF POWER
AND THE WOMEN WHO SWARM TO THEM.

SFX: shrug
THE SALON IS THAT KIND OF PLACE TO BEGIN WITH, ISN'T IT?
... AH, YOU KNOW.


BUT IT'S OKAY... I DON'T DISLIKE SUCH WEAK WOMEN WHO FALL PREY TO THEIR OWN DESIRES.
THOSE RESOLUTE EYES OF YOURS, WHICH CHANGED AND BECAME SO SEDUCTIVE THE MOMENT THEY FELL ON ME, ARE THE BEST! ♪

AREN'T YOU ONE OF THEM, AFTER ALL?
IN ORDER TO GAIN THAT POWER FOR THEMSELVES, THE WHORES SPREAD THEIR LEGS WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELID.
... oops, sorry for the dirty word! ♡

QUICK, SHOW THEM TO...
...ME?
SFX: kick!



SFX: shake shake

SFX: join!

SFX: slip

AKUTSU FUMIYA... YOU ARE DETAINED FOR THE MURDER OF TOOYAMA CHIASA!
I AM ASSISTANT INSPECTOR HIBINO MIDUKI OF THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT!

I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION FOR YOU...
I AM A DETECTIVE!!

IF I AM TO BE ABLE TO STAND NEXT TO RYUUZAKI-SAN AS HIS PARTNER...
I WON'T YIELD TO THIS BASTARD AGAIN!

WHO THE HELL IS THE REAR SALON'S SPONSOR...
SFX: gaaah
HEAVY-HO!
!!

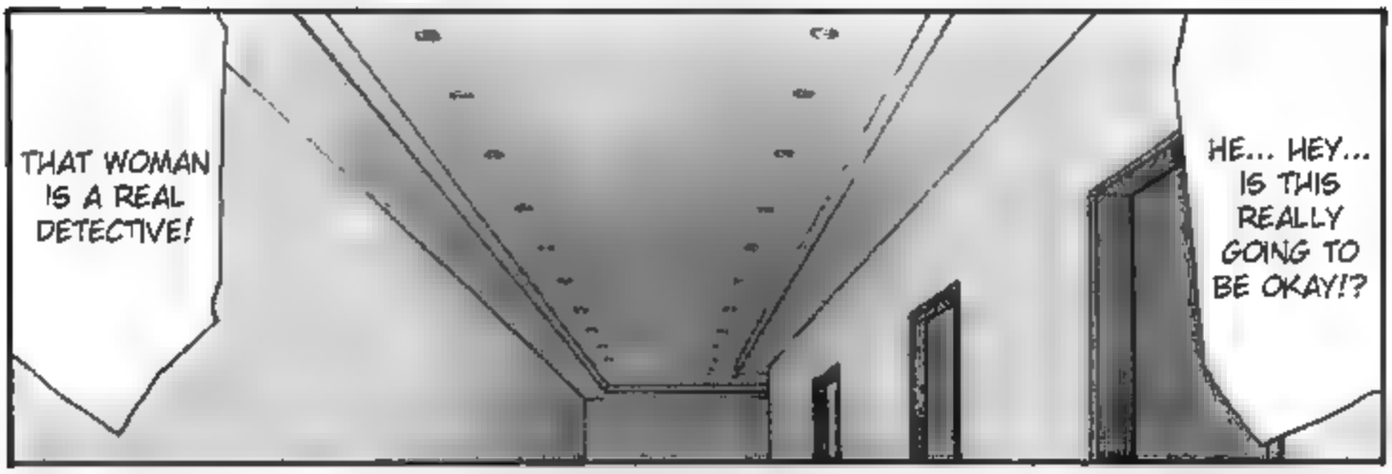
SFX: STRUGGLE

UGH!!
SFX: punch!
GETTING TO YOU IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME... WHAT DO YOU RECKON THE WORLD WILL THINK OF...
THE POLICE WILL UN-MASK THE REAR SALON AND HAVE ALREADY STARTED MOVING TO-WARDS THAT GOAL.
SFX: faint
UGH...
UH...
THIS SOW...!!

WHA... HEY, HEY, FUMIYA... YOU...
AREN'T YOU AN UP-AND-COMING FILMMAKER?
JUST QUIETLY RECORD IT ALL, NIWA-CHAN.
HUH? THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
H-HEY... THIS IS BAD... DOING THIS TO A DETECTIVE...
IF THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THAT PERSON HAS OUR BACKS.
SFX: grin
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ARREST US, GOT IT!?
SFX: flap
ENOUGH OF THAT, GO CALL THE GUYS OUTSIDE.
YOU .. YOU HAVE A POINT...
JUST TRY TO THINK ABOUT IT A LITTLE. WE WHO COME TO THE REAR SALON ARE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE.
EVEN IF THE POLICE COME, WE WON'T BE ARRESTED. THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO STOP THAT FROM HAPPENING.

SFX: riiip!

WE CAN THINK ALL WE WANT LATER... FIRST OF ALL, THIS WOMAN...
LET'S RAVISH HER COM-PLETE-LY!!


THAT WOMAN IS A REAL DETECTIVE!
HE... HEY... IS THIS REALLY GOING TO BE OKAY!?

B-BUT, EVEN SO...
JUST AS AKUTSU SAID, THIS PLACE IS FOREIGN TERRITORY TO THEM.
THAT PERSON WILL MAKE EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT IN THE END.

NO REASON TO WORRY!
FUMIYA HAS GOTTEN CRAZY THESE DAYS!

IT'S SO BIG I ENDED UP GETTING LOST!
YEAH, AND WELL... THIS SALON IS AMAZING, ISN'T IT?
ARE YOU A NEW CUSTOMER, SIR?
?

AH... EXCUSE ME...
WELL, WHY DON'T WE JUST GO HAVE A LOOK AT THEM DOING IT?
Kuku..

IT'S BECOME A RAPE SESSION, THAT ROOM BACK THERE. AND THE BITCH IS A REAL DETECTIVE!
THAT'S RIGHT
OTHER THAN THAT JUST NOW WERE YOU SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT A DETECTIVE?

SURE THING!
IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE, SHALL I SHOW YOU THE WAY?
SFX: smile!

I WON'T FORGIVE THESE GUYS!!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIBINO-SAN...

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

DEATHTOLL

DEATHTOLLSCANS.NET

TRANSLATOR:

WRAITH

PROOFREADER:

HACK

CLEANER:

XFAGJE, SARRYMAST

REDRAWER:

SARRYMAST

TYPESETTER:

YOTHEN

QUALITY CHECK:

WRAITH

DT

DEATHTOLLSCANS

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BUT... SHE ISN'T CARRYING A GUN OR ANYTHING, IS SHE?
OOH! THIS IS A REAL POLICE BADGE!
It's the first time I've seen one...
HIBINO... MIDUKI?
WHAT A FINE WOMAN! UNLIKE THOSE REGULAR WHORES WHO COME HERE, THIS ONE IS UNCORRUPTED, HOW NICE...
BUT SERI-OUSLY... TO INVESTIGATE THE REAR SALON ALONE...

TS/N: Hot damn!

WHAT A STUPID WOMAN!

SFX: ominous
CHAPTER 67: RUIN

YOU KNOW A LOT, FUMIYA.
I'M ACTING IN A DETECTIVE DRAMA NOW, THAT'S WHY.
DID YOU KNOW, THAT UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATIONS ARE AGAINST THE RULES?
THIS GAL MUST HAVE COME HERE AS PART OF A SO-CALLED "UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION".
BECAUSE OF THE LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND DRUGS THAT COME THROUGH THIS PLACE,
WHATEVER BECOMES OF THIS WOMAN, THE POLICE WILL NOT MAKE A MOVE.
LONG STORY SHORT,
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS AN ILLEGAL INVESTIGATION.
WE DON'T HAVE ANYBODY TO FEAR, LET ALONE THE POLICE!
AND, IF ONLY FOR ARGUMENT'S SAKE, THEY DID MOVE... WE HAVE THAT PERSON ON OUR SIDE.

T.L/N: Well, Fumiya, I'm sure with your knowledge of criminal law procedure, you will be able to identify a lot of illegal things Ryuuzaki is about to do. Provided you are still breathing by then, of course.

TL/N: Aaah, I missed his murderous mug!
SFX: plop!

WHA... WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU, BAS-TARD!?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM!? HEY!!

!!

!
SFX: ba-dump!
HIBINO-SAN!!
HI...
SFX: dash!
SFX: budge
!
...
HEY.

SFX: whamI
EH?
!?
PUNCH
SCREECH...

WHAT?
.....

TS/N: End of his acting career in 3... 2... 1...

TY
TS/N. FALCON PUNCH!!!
SFX. Wham!
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN YOUR DEATH!!
LUCK HAS SMILED UPON YOU... IF YOU HAD LAID A FINGER ON HER,

SFX: dash dash

SFX: step step step

SFX: charge!

SFX: jolt!

TS/N: Mass pwnage is best pwnage.

SFX: wahahaha!

BEEP
MOREOVER, THIS INFILTRA-T.ON STRATE-GY WAS ALL DIRECTOR TAKENOUCHI'S IDEA!
AH, I AM M.NAGAWA FROM KAM.-SAKA STA-TION! SEND THE DIRECTOR MY BEST WISHES

DON'T WORRY! FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS FROM YOU, DETECTIVE RYUUZAKI, OUR JURISDICTION WAS ABLE TO ROUND THEM ALL UP!
THE MEM-BERS OF THE REAR SALON WHO TR'ED TO ESCAPE, ARE THEY
かはははは

CONTINUING THE NEWS REPORT...

IN A CERTAIN HOTEL IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA, THE SO-CALLED "REAR SALON", A CLUB THAT OPERATED IN SECRECY, WAS EXPOSED BY THE POLICE IN A LARGE-SCALE OPERATION.

THE SALON'S MEMBERS NUMBERED ABOVE 50 AND PERSONALITIES FROM POLITICS, SHOW BUSINESS AND SPORTS HAD ADDED THEIR NAMES TO IT...

Who is behind the "Rear Salon"?

THE POLICE CONTINUE TO SEARCH THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF THE SALON'S SPONSOR...

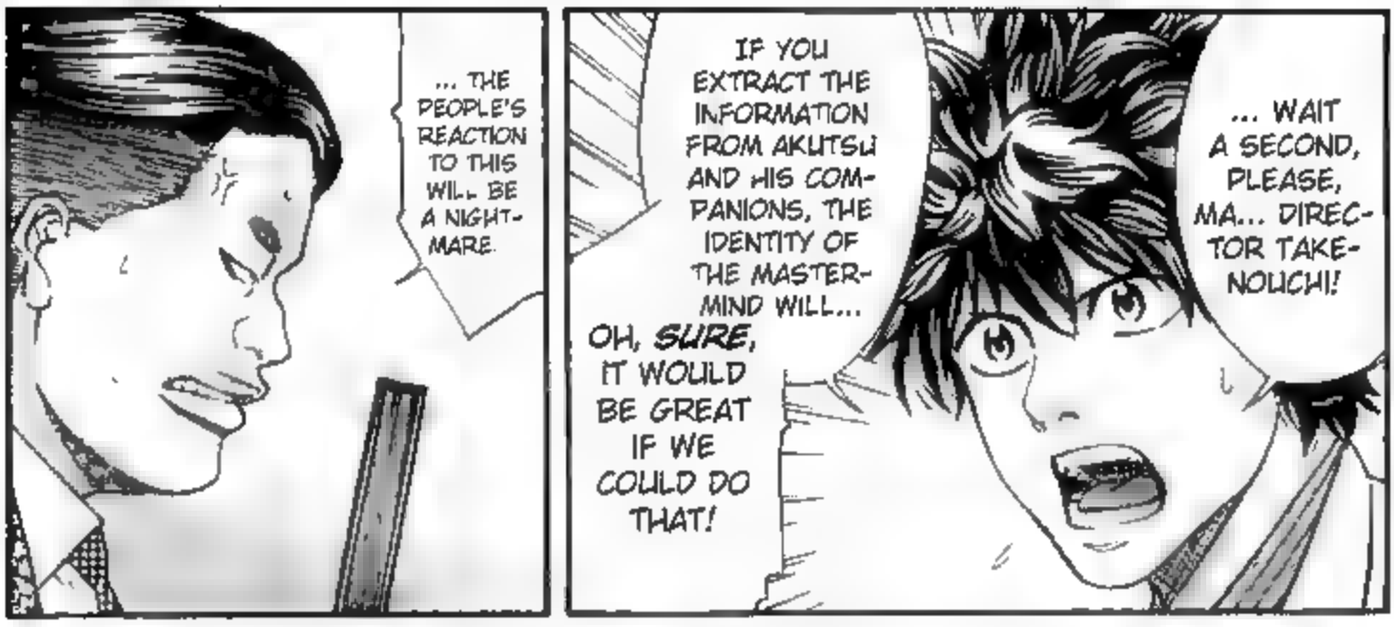
THE MASS ARREST DRAMA IS SENDING SHOCKWAVES THROUGH ALL OF THESE FIELDS

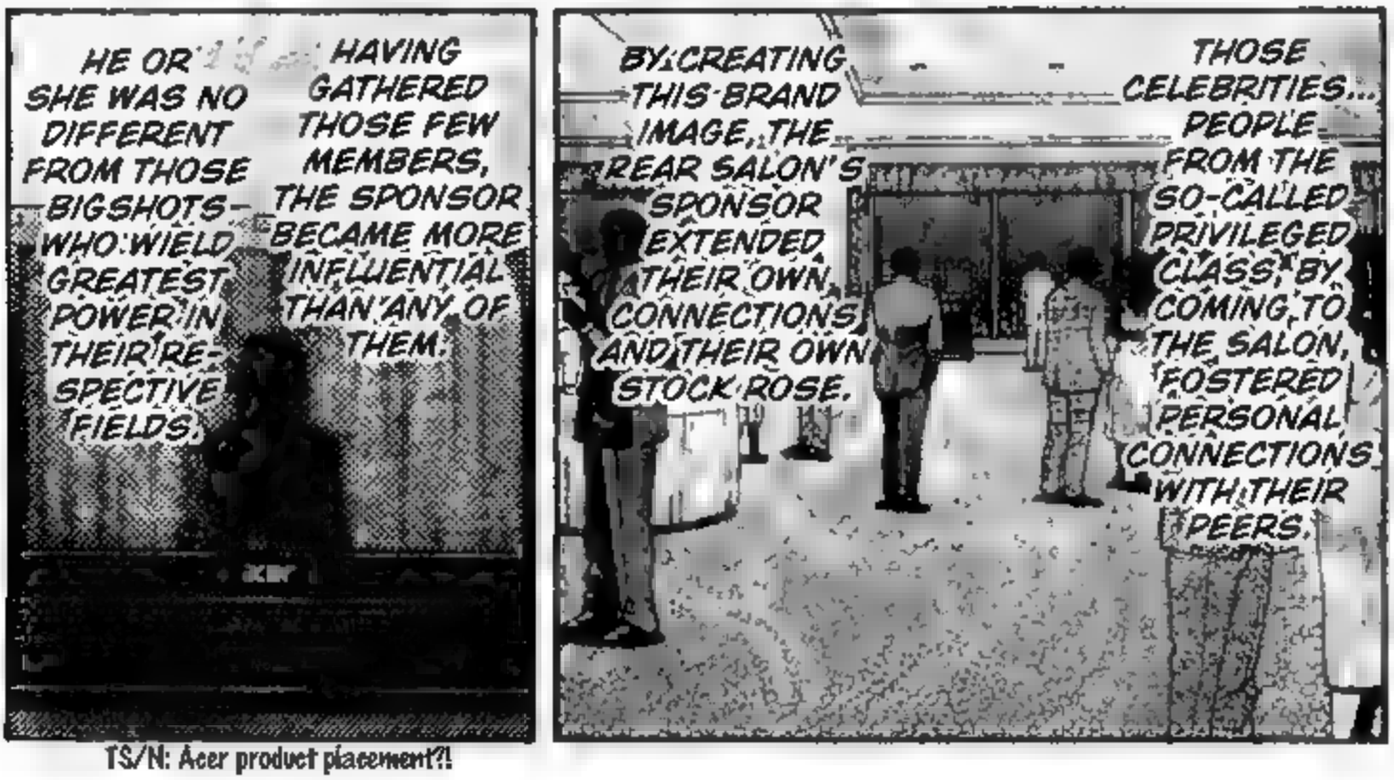
THE POPU-LAR ACTOR, MR AKUTSU FUMIYA, WAS ALSO IN THE SALON AT THE TIME OF THE RAID...

I HAD SPECIFICALLY DETERMINED THAT THE PRIMARY TARGET OF THIS INFILTRATION WAS THE MASTERMIND WHO RUNS THE SALON...
SERGEANT RYUUZAKI... YOU BASTARD... WITHOUT MY AUTHORISATION, YOU ACTED ON YOUR OWN AND MOBILISED THOSE FUCKERS FROM KAMISAKA STATION, IS THAT IT!?

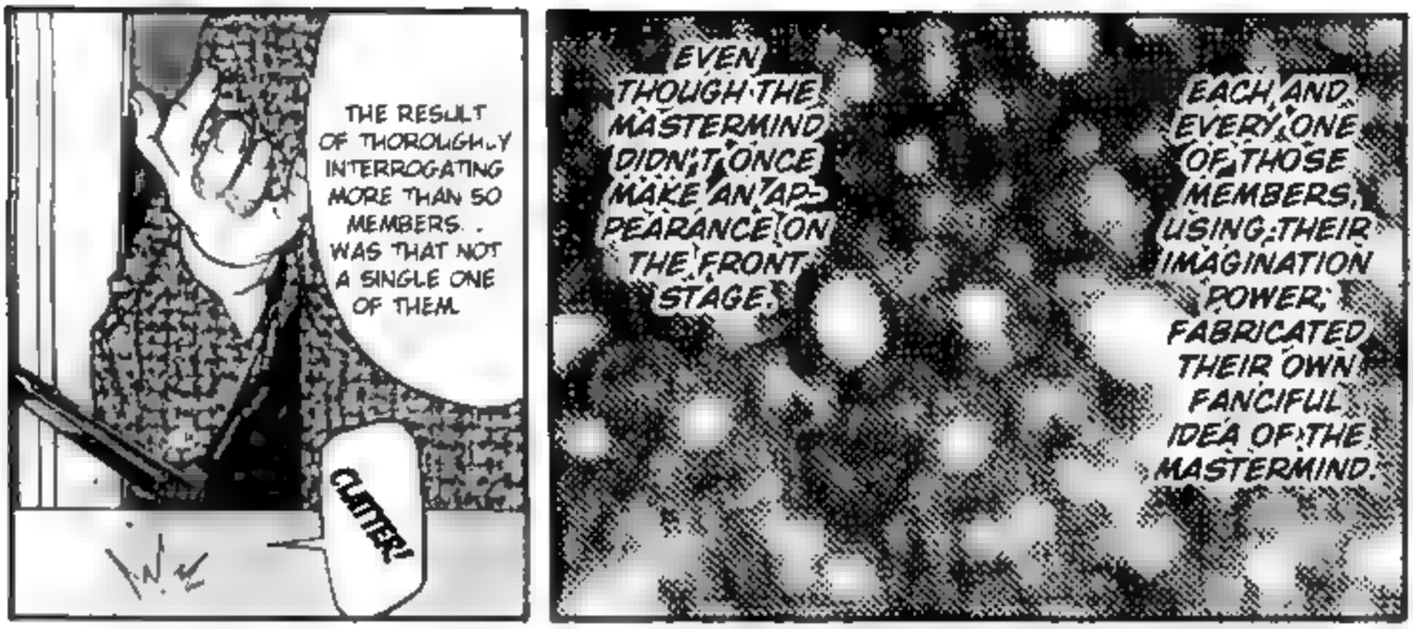
SFX. tremble tremble

OUR OPERATION HAS COLLAPSED BEFORE WE COULD IDENTIFY THE RINGLEADER!
BECAUSE OF YOU BASTARD'S WILLY-NILLY RAID OF THE REAR SALON


... THE PEOPLE'S REACTION TO THIS WILL BE A NIGHTMARE.
IF YOU EXTRACT THE INFORMATION FROM AKUTSU AND HIS COMPANIONS, THE IDENTITY OF THE MASTERMIND WILL...
OH, SURE, IT WOULD BE GREAT IF WE COULD DO THAT!
... WAIT A SECOND, PLEASE, MA... DIRECTOR TAKENOUCHI!


HE OR SHE WAS NO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE BIGSHOTS WHO WIELD GREATEST POWER IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS.
HAVING GATHERED THOSE FEW MEMBERS, THE SPONSOR BECAME MORE INFLUENTIAL THAN ANY OF THEM.
BY CREATING THIS BRAND IMAGE, THE REAR SALON'S SPONSOR EXTENDED THEIR OWN CONNECTIONS AND THEIR OWN STOCK ROSE.
THOSE CELEBRITIES... PEOPLE FROM THE SO-CALLED PRIVILEGED CLASS, BY COMING TO THE SALON, FOSTERED PERSONAL CONNECTIONS WITH THEIR PEERS.

TS/N: Acer product placement?!


THE RESULT OF THOROUGHLY INTERROGATING MORE THAN 50 MEMBERS... WAS THAT NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM
CLATTER!
EVEN THOUGH THE MASTERMIND DIDN'T ONCE MAKE AN APPEARANCE ON THE FRONT STAGE,
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THOSE MEMBERS, USING THEIR IMAGINATION POWER, FABRICATED THEIR OWN FANCIFUL IDEA OF THE MASTERMIND.

HAS THE BLOODIEST IDEA OF WHO THE SPONSOR MIGHT BE!!
SFX. grind!

?

"I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THESE CHICKS ARE!", HE SAID.
IT APPEARS THAT AKUTSU DENIES ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE MURDER OF TOOYAMA CHIASA OR IN THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF ANDO SHIORI.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EASE THOSE GIRLS' SORROWS A LITTLE.
IT'S REGRETTABLE THAT WE CANNOT ARREST THE REAR SALON'S SPONSOR, BUT...

HIS FINGERPRINTS ON THE MDMA TABLETS... AND THE VICTIM'S TESTIMONY, THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE.
IT SEEMS INCONTROVERTIBLE THAT AKUTSU IS THE CRIMINAL, RIGHT?

SFX: slip
I HAVE A REQUEST FOR YOU
RYUU-ZAKI-SAN.

.....

IT'S NOT ABOUT AKUTSU... IT'S ABOUT THE REAR SALON'S MASTERMIND, WHO ESCAPED PUNISHMENT THIS TIME...
HOW ABOUT IT?
SFX: turn!
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO INVESTIGATE A LITTLE...
?
SFX: tchaam!
!?
IF THAT PERSON IS THE TRUE CULPRIT FOR THIS PARTICULAR MURDER CASE...

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

DEATHTOLL

DEATHTOLLSCANS.NET

TRANSLATOR:

WRAITH

PROOFREADER:

HACK

CLEANER:

SARRYMAST

REDRAWER:

SARRYMAST

TYPESETTER:

YOTHEN

QUALITY CHECK:

WRAITH

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第68話
CHAPTER 68: BARE

ouroboros

ouroboros

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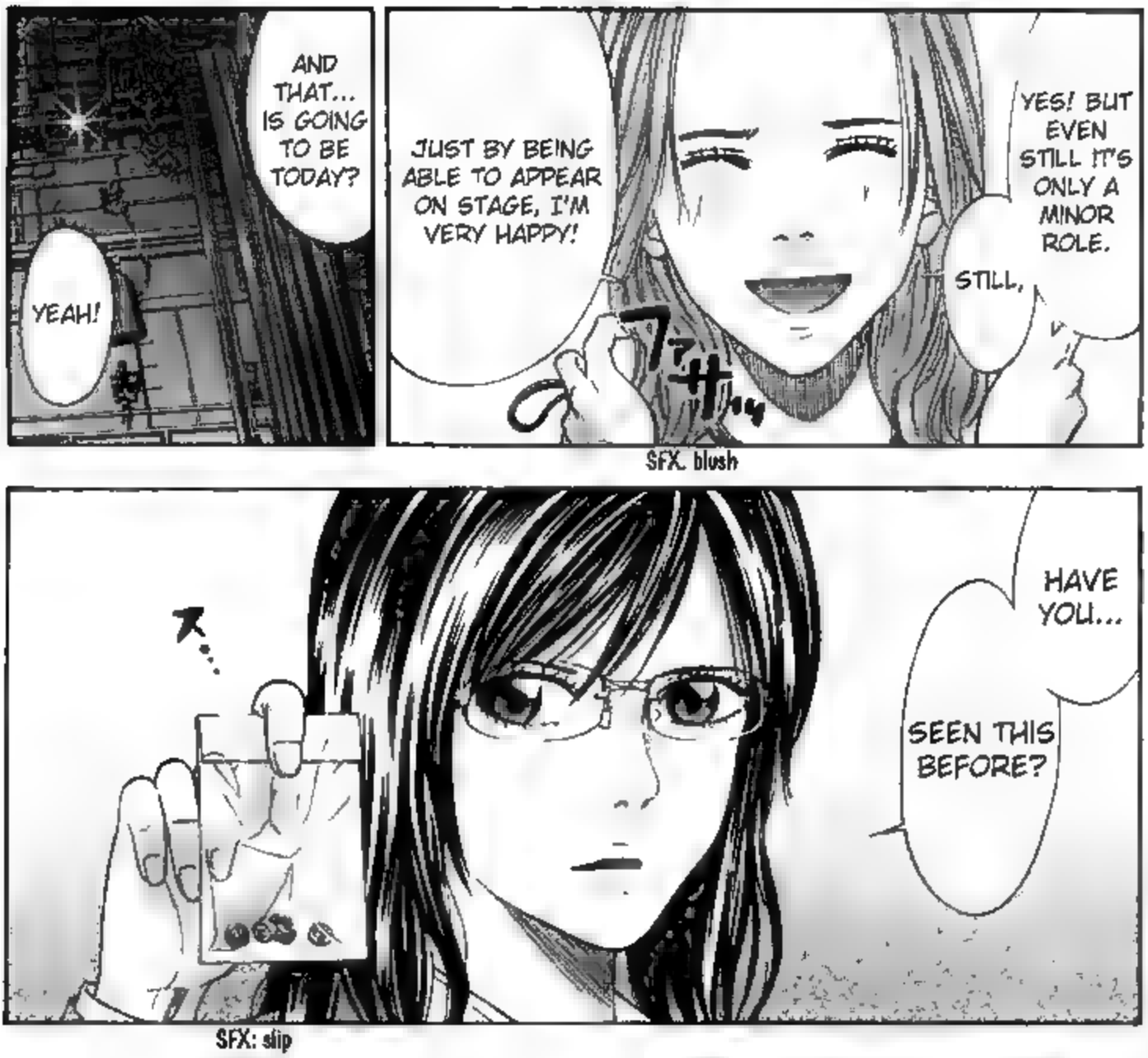
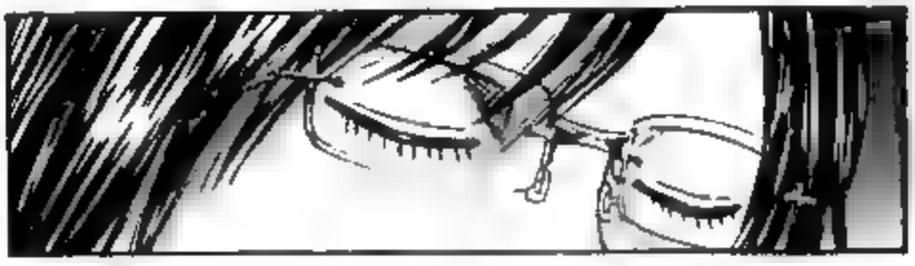
SFX: clap clap clap
I DIDN'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU WHILE YOU WERE PRACTICING...
I'M SORRY.
MIDUKI-SAN!
YOU PASSED YOUR AUDITION, RIGHT?
SHI-ORI-SAN.
YES. FORTU-NATELY, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A COMPLETE RECOVERY.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE. SINCE YOU WERE DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL, IT HAS BEEN... A MONTH OR SO?


AND THAT... IS GOING TO BE TODAY?
YEAH!
JUST BY BEING ABLE TO APPEAR ON STAGE, I'M VERY HAPPY!
YES! BUT EVEN STILL IT'S ONLY A MINOR ROLE.
STILL,
SFX. blush
HAVE YOU...
SEEN THIS BEFORE?
SFX: slip
AND THIS ONE WAS IN POSSESSION OF AKUTSU AND SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED BY THE REAR SALON'S SPONSORS TO ITS MEMBERS.
THE MDMA EXTRACTED FROM THE DECEASED TOOYAMA CHIASA-SAN AND THE ONE RETRIEVED FROM YOUR BODY HAVE THE SAME COMPOSITION.
!!
I'M SORRY... THIS MUST BRING BACK BITTER MEMORIES...

THE REAR SALON'S... SPONSOR? WAS THAT PERSON ARRESTED?
NO...
SADLY THE POLICE HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL... YOU HAVE OUR APOLOGIES.
I SEE, THAT'S HOW IT IS...

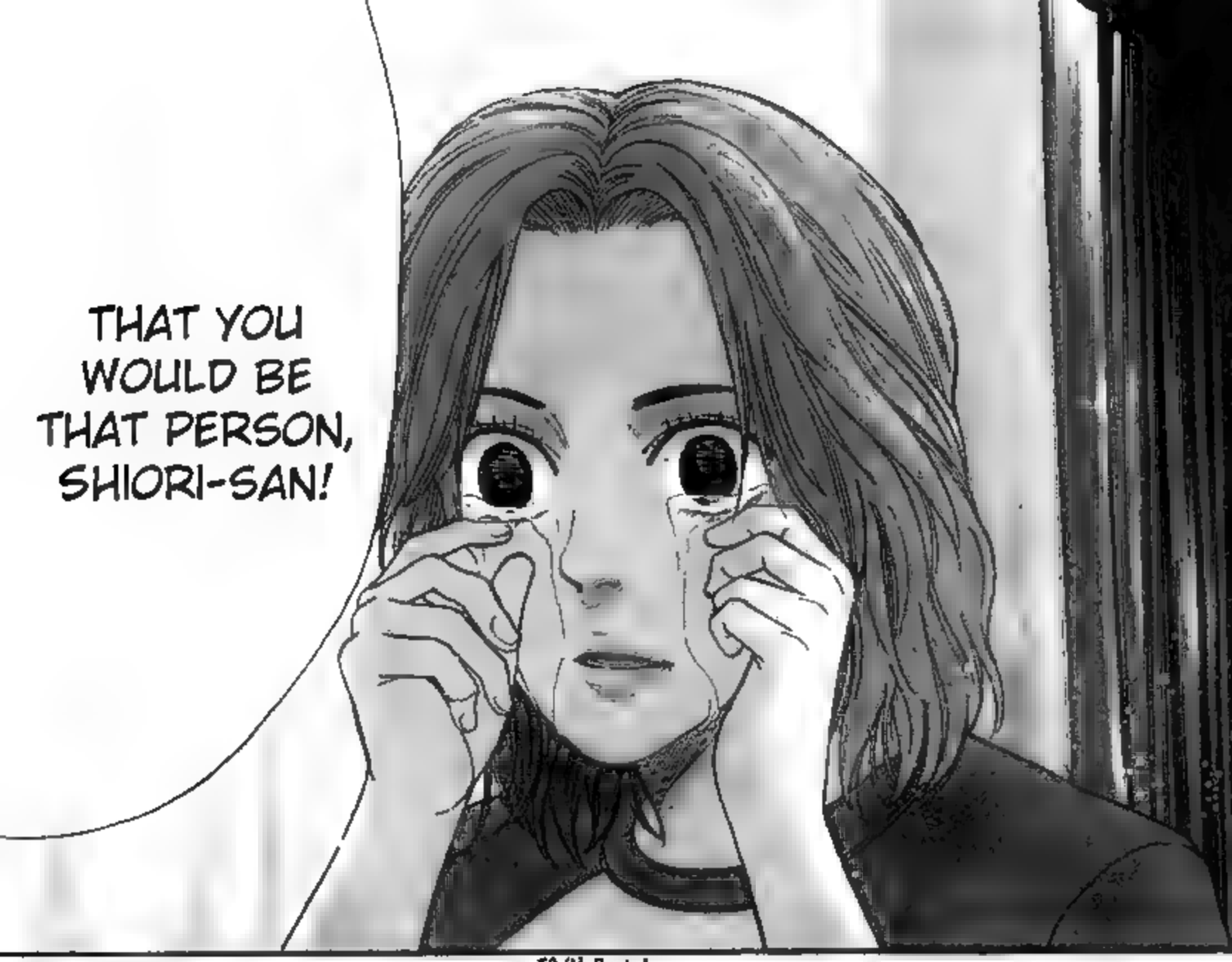
SFX: hoo!



SFX: turn!

THE REAR SALON'S SPONSOR... AND THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THIS CASE...

THERE'S NO WAY THAT ONE PERSON WOULD PLAY TWO ROLES, RIGHT?
THAT THEY WOULD PLAY, AT THE SAME TIME, THE VICTIM AND THE MASTER-MIND OF THE REAR SALON.

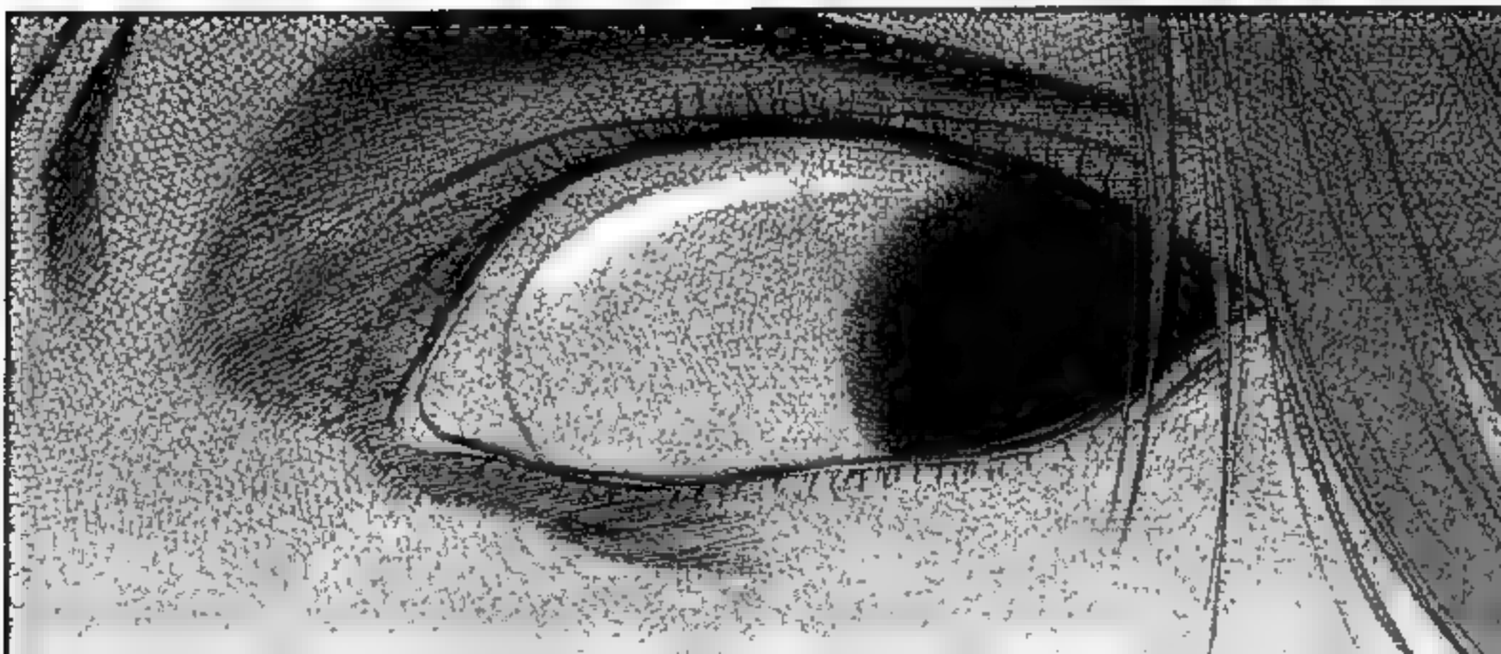

THAT YOU WOULD BE THAT PERSON, SHIORI-SAN!

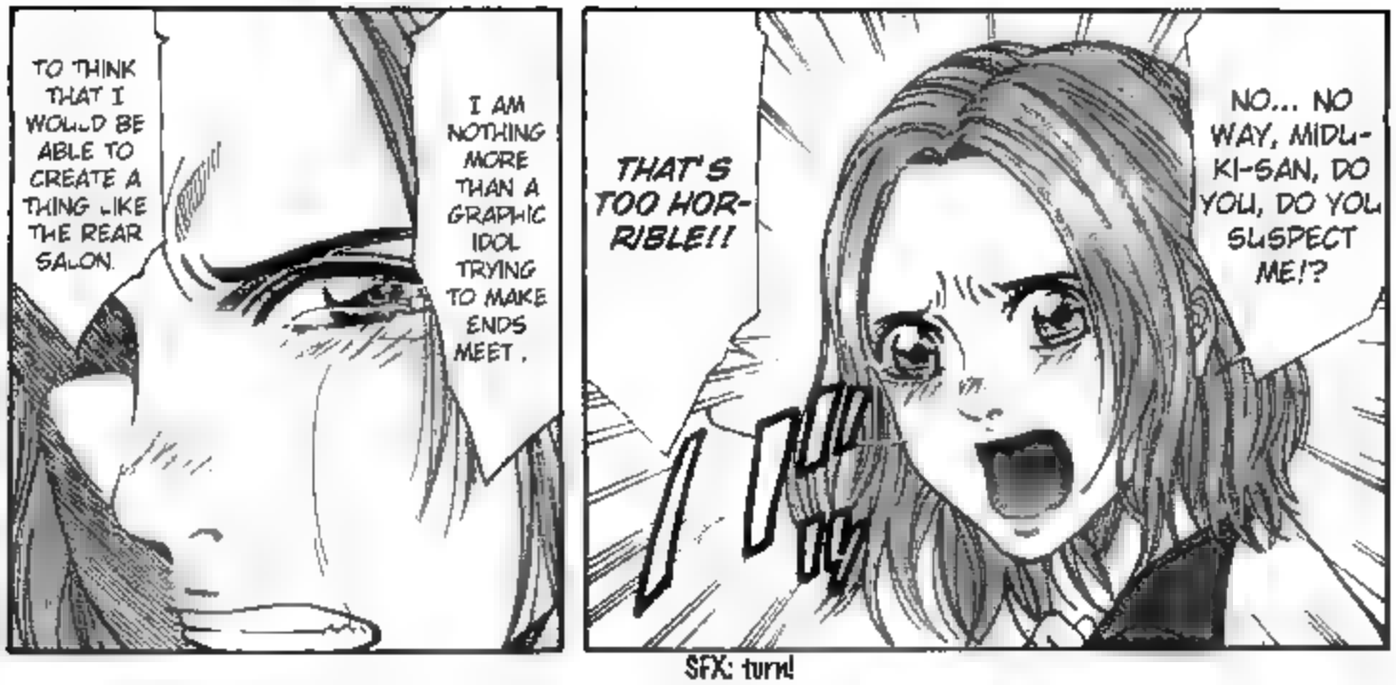
TS/N: Busted.

PLAYING? WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
ME, THE REAR SALON'S MASTERMIND? ARE YOU SERIOUS?

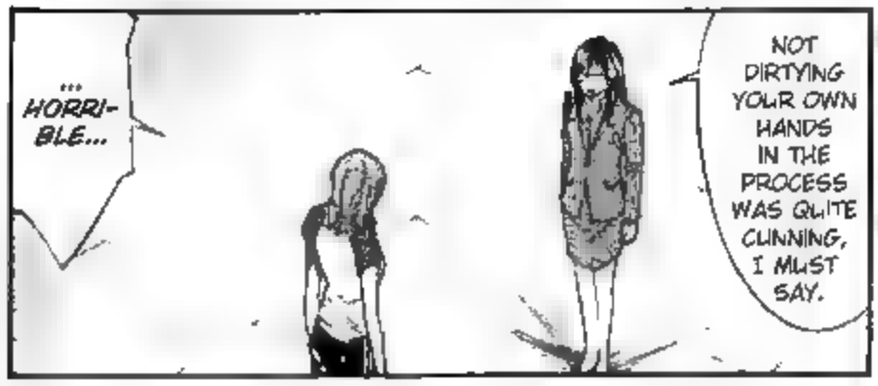
EH?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MIDUKI-SAN...

TS/N: The fuck? You trying gimme a heart attack, you bitch?!




TO THINK THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO CREATE A THING LIKE THE REAR SALON.
I AM NOTHING MORE THAN A GRAPHIC IDOL TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET.
THAT'S TOO HORRIBLE!!
NO... NO WAY, MIDUKI-SAN, DO YOU, DO YOU SUSPECT ME!?

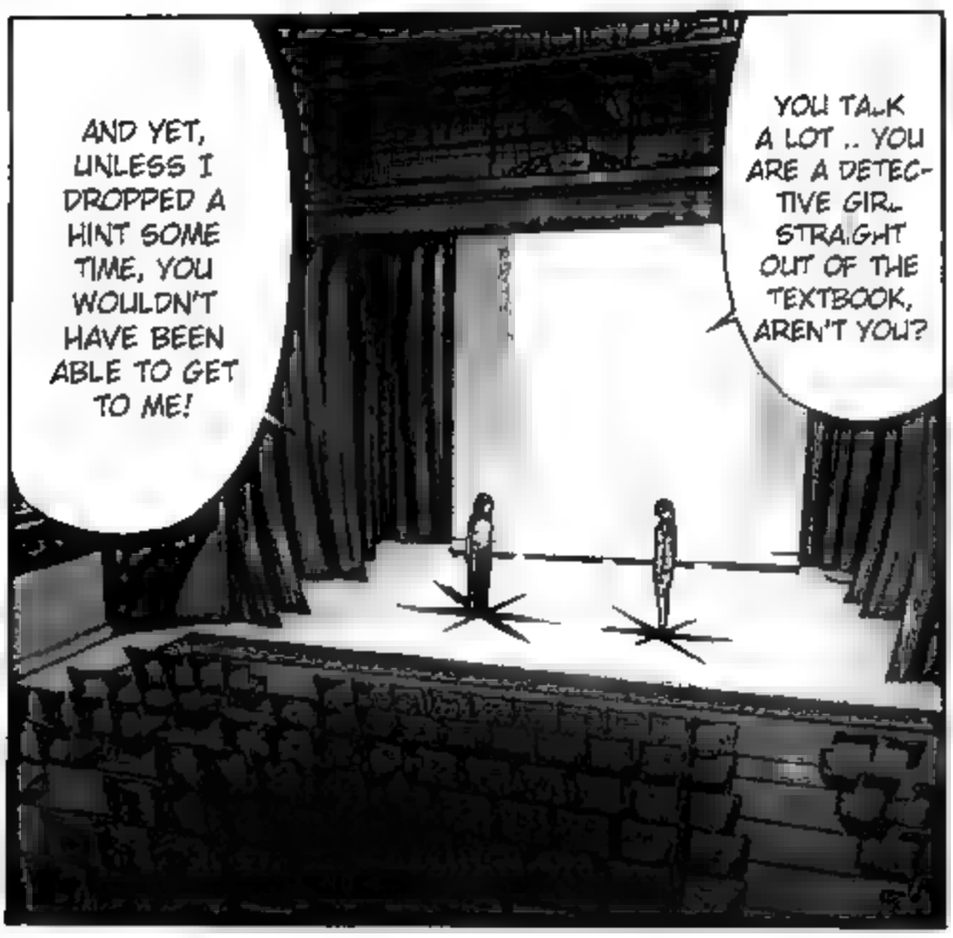
SFX: turn!



NO... IT IS POSSIBLE. THE REAR SALON'S MEMBERS, ALL OF WHOM WERE WELL CONNECTED PERSONALLY, BROUGHT ALONG NEW CUSTOMERS AS THEY PLEASED.
THE MORE INFLUENTIAL THE PEOPLE, THE MORE THE REAR SALON'S BRAND DEVELOPED AND THE MORE THE SPONSOR INCREASED THEIR PERSONAL STOCK.
THE MASTERMIND ONLY HAD TO CREATE A "VESSEL", THAT'S ALL.

SXF: drip drip

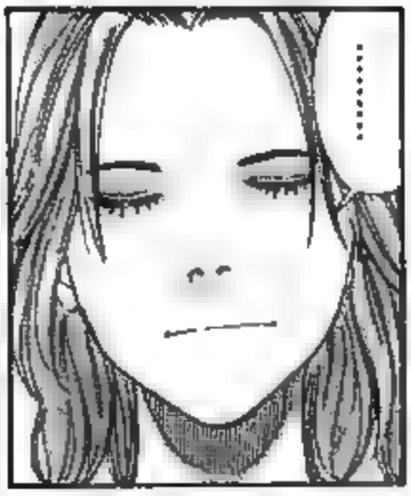
PLEASE SPARE ME YOUR BAD ACTING!
ARE YOU TRYING TO GATHER SYMPATHY AGAIN?


AND YET, UNLESS I DROPPED A HINT SOME TIME, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET TO ME!
YOU TALK A LOT .. YOU ARE A DETECTIVE GIRL STRAIGHT OUT OF THE TEXTBOOK, AREN'T YOU?

HUH?
WHOSE ACTING ARE YOU SAYING IS BAD?

.....
THE HINT... WAS "SHAKE-SPEARE", I GUESS.
CHUCKLE!
BACK IN THE HOSPITAL ROOM, YOU ARTIFICIALLY LEFT YOUR BAG OPEN IN PLAIN SIGHT WITH A BUNDLE OF THEATRICAL FLYERS IN IT, AS IF MEANT TO BE SEEN...
AND THEN, THERE WAS THAT STORY OF HOW LADY MACBETH MADE YOU ASPIRE TO A CAREER IN THEATRE...
WHEN I LISTENED TO YOUR STORY, THAT DAY ON THE HOSPITAL ROOF,
I CONNECTED YOU TO THE WORDS I HAD HEARD FROM THE REAR SALON'S MASTERMIND.

TL note: I didn't know it was a quotation back in chapter 62, but even if I did, it would have been a spoiler if I had disclosed the fact then. In any case, the author is wrong. This quotation is not Shakespeare's, but his greatest detractor, George Bernard Shaw's. It's from a play I haven't read yet, *Overruled*.



SO, YOU UN-DERSTOOD THAT AS A DELIBERATE HINT FROM ME TO YOU?
THE MONEY I MADE THROUGH THE REAR SALON IS OF NO IMPORTANCE TO ME.
AND I DON'T FEAR BEING ARRESTED BY THE POLICE AT ALL.

ALL THOSE MEN OF POWER AND INFLUENCE WHO MISTAKENLY THINK THEY ARE ABOVE EVERYONE ELSE.
PLAYING THE PART OF THE REAR SALON'S SPONSOR WAS MERELY BECAUSE I WANTED TO HAVE THOSE MEN IN MY HANDS, MANIPULATE THEM, AND BE THE TARGET OF THEIR REVERENCE.
YOU IDIOTS!
WHO TOLD YOU TO HIRE THIS CLUMSY IMPROVISER AS YOU PLEASED!?
YOU CAN GO NOW.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
I MADE FOOLS OF ALL THOSE WHO LOOKED DOWN ON MY ACTING SKILLS...
FOR NOW, WE'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN THERE ARE POSITIONS AVAILABLE AS AN EXTRA..
MAYBE WHEN YOU'RE OLDER?
THIS ROLE IS... HMM... PROBABLY A BIT TOUGH FOR YOU, OKAY?
SFX: haa haa haa
OKAY, THEN, NEXT!
YES!
TRASH, ALL OF THEM!!

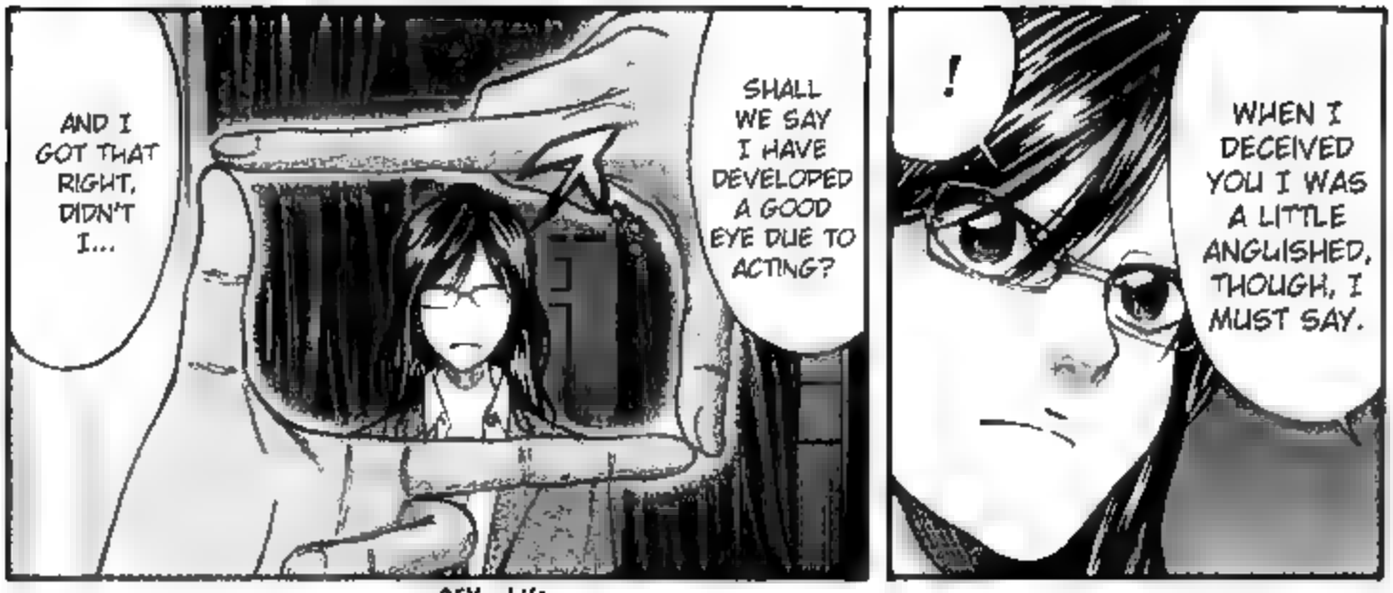
GRIT!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
YOUR ACTING IS GOOD, YOU KNOW.
You are too young now, but you have potential.
SFX: haa haa haa
SFX: clank!
BECAUSE I CANNOT REVEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY, NATURALLY THERE IS NOT A SINGLE SOUL TO SHOW SOME PRAISE FOR MY ACTING PERFORMANCE AS ITS MASTERMIND...
HOWEVER MUCH I AM REVERED BY THESE BIG SHOTS I MANIPULATE LIKE PUPPETS FROM THE SHADOWS OF THE REAR SALON,

A MARRIAGE INTERVIEW... IN YOUR PARENTS' HOME?
AND THEN, THESE BASTARDS POUR CONTEMPT ON ME!
OUR PARENTS ARE IN VERY GOOD TERMS AS WELL
HE IS ALSO SAYING
"I LIKED YOU SINCE WE WERE CHILDREN" AND SO ON.
HE IS A CHILDHOOD FRIEND, AND... IT SEEMS HE IS SUCCEEDING HIS PARENTS' IN THE BUSINESS.
YEAH, THE FIANCE IS YOCCHAN, THE ONLY SON OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD'S GREENGROCERS.
SFX: joH!
ISN'T YOUR DREAM TO BECOME A MUSICIAN!? ISN'T IT?
GOING BACK TO YOUR PARENTS' ... IS A JOKE, RIGHT!?
RIGHT!?
SHIORI
WAIT... A SECOND...
WELL, I WONDER IF BEING THE BRIDE OF A GREENGROCER'S WILL BE FUN.
...

AREN'T WE PAST THE AGE OF STARTING OVER?
LET'S GIVE UP ON THIS DREAM COMPLETELY AND DO OUR BEST IN OUR NEW LIVES! HOW ABOUT IT?
NOT FOR ME, AND NOT FOR YOU.
... IT WON'T WORK.
KIRIE
I ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR EFFORT, BUT... EVEN SO, YOUR TALENT...
YOU FAILED YOUR AUDITION, DIDN'T YOU?
HOW MANY HAS IT BEEN, COUNTING THIS ONE?
SAY, NO MORE... SHUT UP...
...ENOUGH ...STOP YOUR BLABBING...
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!

MDMA IS DANGEROUS, BUT I INGESTED A DOSE JUST BELOW LETHAL BY MYSELF.
MY DRAMA IS ALWAYS THE PURSUIT OF THE ULTIMATE REALITY!
I WOULD BE ABLE TO LAY THE BLAME ON AKUTSU AND THEN PLAY THE PART OF ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE REAR SALON. ♪
SOON AFTER THAT, I FOUND MY OPPORTUNITY, AGAIN THROUGH THE SALON.
.....

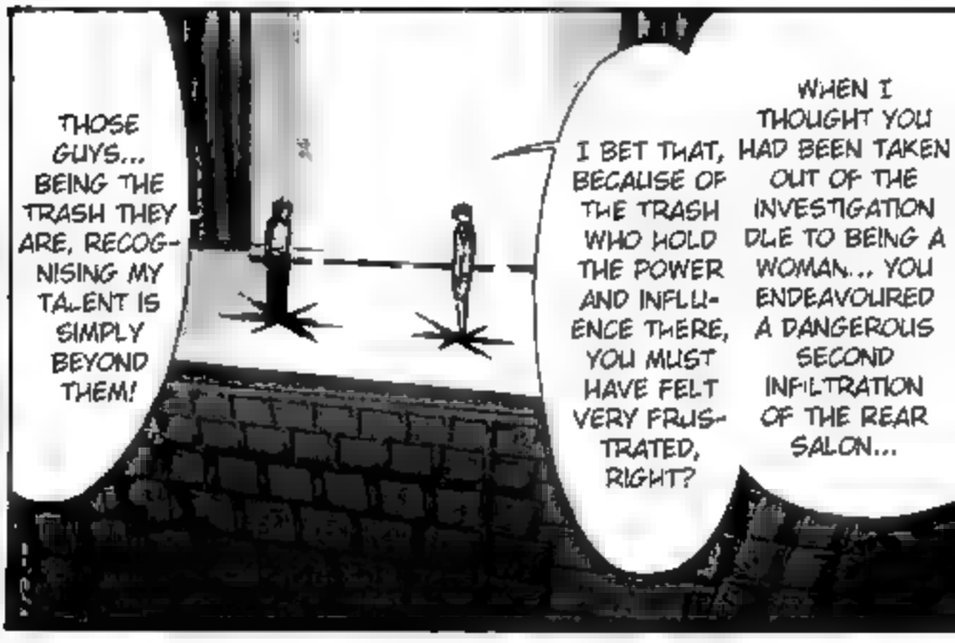
TS/N: Fun fact: "Lethal dose" is really an average value for how much of a substance an organism can handle before it becomes toxic, but it actually varies from one individual to another. So for all we know, she could have taken one pill, or, say, twenty five.


AND I GOT THAT RIGHT, DIDN'T I...
SHALL WE SAY I HAVE DEVELOPED A GOOD EYE DUE TO ACTING?
!
WHEN I DECEIVED YOU I WAS A LITTLE ANGUISHED, THOUGH, I MUST SAY.

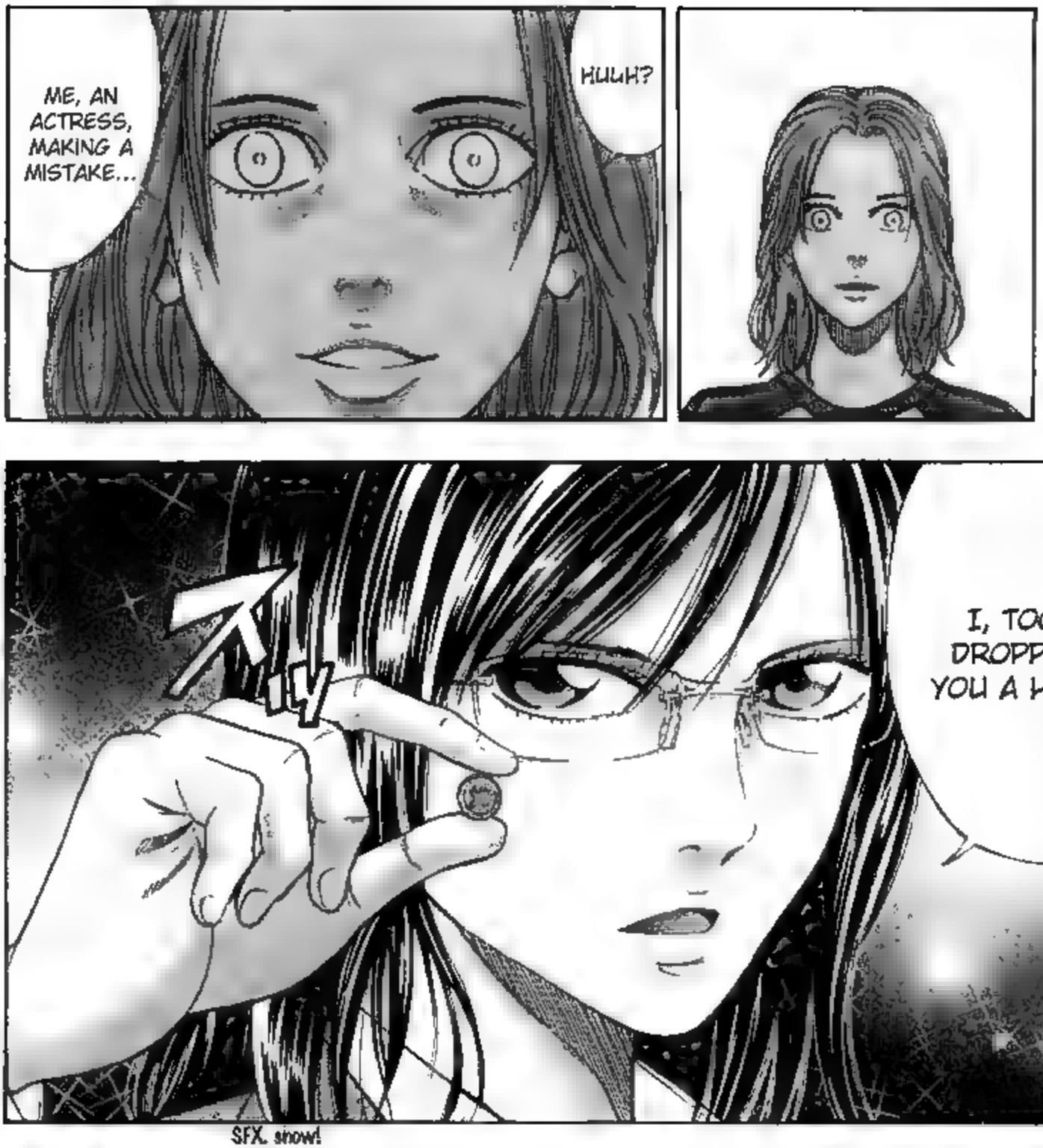
SFX: shift

YOU AND I... ARE QUITE ALIKE, SO TO SPEAK.
EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE EXCEPTIONAL TALENT, YOU HAVE THE EYES OF A SAD WOMAN WHO IS NOT ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE WORLD.

TS/N: "We're not so different, you and I" cliche.


THOSE GUYS... BEING THE TRASH THEY ARE, RECOG-NISING MY TALENT IS SIMPLY BEYOND THEM!
I BET THAT, BECAUSE OF THE TRASH WHO HOLD THE POWER AND INFLU-ENCE THERE, YOU MUST HAVE FELT VERY FRUS-TRATED, RIGHT?
WHEN I THOUGHT YOU HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF THE INVESTIGATION DUE TO BEING A WOMAN... YOU ENDEAVOURED A DANGEROUS SECOND INFILTRATION OF THE REAR SALON...

MY PERFOR-
MANCE WAS
FLAWLESS...
I HAVE
BEEN
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO IT...
BESIDES...
I HAVE
NO RE-
GRETS!!
AFTER
HAVING
BEEN
AN AC-
TRESS,
IT WAS DUE TO A
DECISIVE MISTAKE
IN YOUR ACTING,
SO TO SPEAK.
MY HAVING
SEEN
THROUGH
YOUR LIES
WASN'T
THANKS TO
YOUR HINTS.
.....
?
YOU...
HAVEN'T
REALISED
IT YET?


ME, AN ACTRESS, MAKING A MISTAKE...
HUUH?
I, TOO, DROPPED YOU A HINT.
SFX. snow!
THE TIME WHEN YOU WERE HOSPITALISED.
ANDOU-SAN, IT'S TIME FOR YOUR MEDI-CINE!
TRY TO REMEMBER CLEARLY
!?
MDMA...!?

THANK YOU, MIDU-KI-SAN.
SHIO-RI-SAN, HERE'S SOME WATER
SFX. slide

IN THE IMMEDI-ATE AFTERMATH OF AN EXPERI-ENCE LIKE THAT, EVEN IF SHE KNEW A DRUG OFFERED TO HER WAS PERFECTLY SAFE, SHE WOULD DEFINITE-LY SHOW SOME DEGREE OF RE-JECTION
TO THE ACT OF INGESTING A PILL...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...

SFX. ha-dump!

...AH...
THE VICTIM, ANDOU SHIORI, IS MADE TO INGEST A PILL SHE RE-CEIVED FROM AKUTSU, NOT KNOWING IT CON-TAINED A DRUG... AND AS A RESULT, NEARLY DIES.

BESIDES... YOU, WHO SUCCUMBED TO YOUR WEAKNESS AND COMMITTED A CRIME...
AND I ARE DIFFERENT!
SFX: swish!
YOU CALL YOURSELF AN ACTRESS? WHAT A JOKE!
EVEN THOUGH YOU OVERLOOKED SUCH A NATURAL VICTIM REACTION...
TS/N: TASTE THE PWNAGE.
SFX: clank!
IS MY GOAL AS A DETECTIVE!!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I REJECT THE SYSTEM, I WILL FIGHT WITHOUT EVER TRYING TO FLEE FROM IT. THAT...

EXCUSE US, PLEASE MAKE WAY!
MAKE ROOM, MAKE ROOM!
SFX: crowd noises

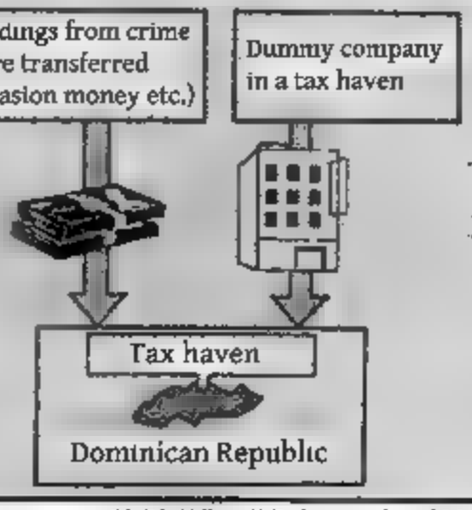
ANDOU SHIORI HID THE MONEY SHE GOT FROM THE REAR SALON IN A SECRET ACCOUNT. IT'S EVEN AN OVER-SEAS ACCOUNT!

IT IS AS YOU SAID, HIBINO-SAN.

HIBI-NO-SAN.

!

THE LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY TRANSFERRED INTO ANDOU SHIORI'S ACCOUNT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE EARNED BY A MERE GRAPHIC IDOL.


Proceedings from crime are wire transferred (tax evasion money etc.)
Dummy company in a tax haven
Tax haven
Dominican Republic

THIS BANK IN THE TAX HAVEN COUNTRY, DOMINI-CAN REPUBLIC, IS A WORLD-LEADING SECRET HOLDER OF VALUABLES... IT IS OFTEN USED TO HIDE ILLICIT MONEY FROM CRIME.

TS/N: What?! Bahamas I could imagine, but Dominican Republic? PFFFFT.

.....

I DON'T THINK THAT WILL BE NECESSARY.

AT LEAST, ONCE WE INVESTIGATE THE ORIGIN OF THE MONEY, WE CAN GET HER TO CONFESS ...

THIS IS GOING TO BE USED AS POWERFUL EVIDENCE THAT, BEING THE OWNER OF THAT ACCOUNT, SHE WAS THE OPERATOR OF THE REAR SALON!

DEATHTOLL

DEATHTOLLSCANS.NET

TRANSLATOR:

WRAITH

PROOFREADER:

HACK

CLEANER:

XLAG

REDRAWER:

SARRYMAST

TYPESETTER:

YOTHEN

QUALITY CHECK:

WRAITH

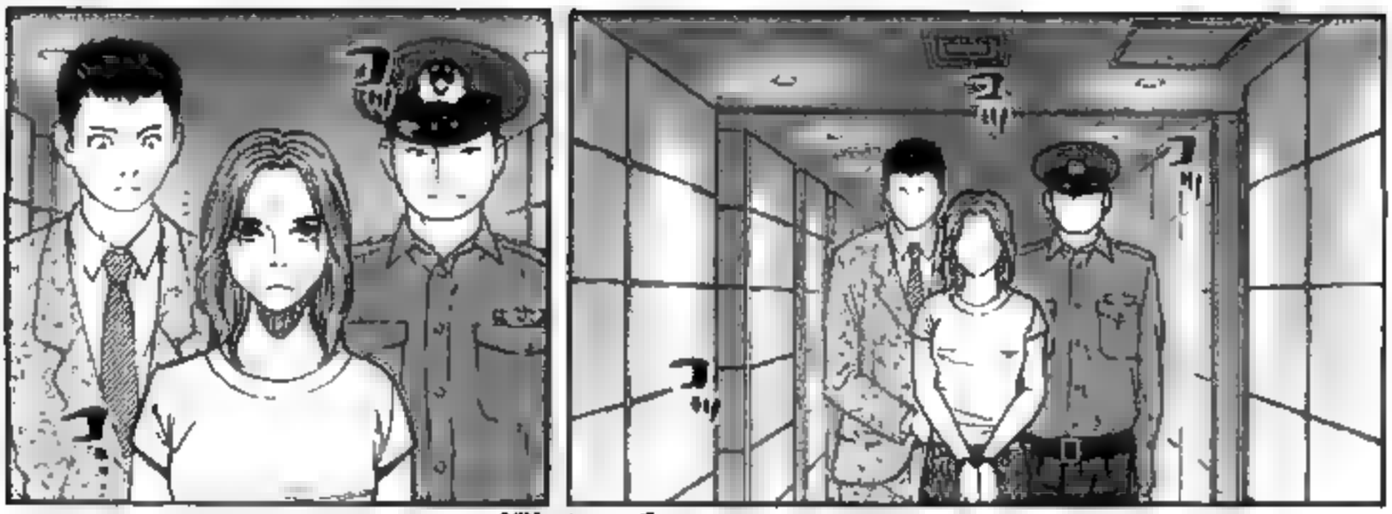
祭 第69話

CHAPTER 69: FESTIVAL

HOW SHE RAN IT BY HERSELF, HOW THE MEMBERS INCLUDED CELEBRITIES AND POWERBROKERS WHOM SHE HAD LED BY THEIR NOSES, SHE NARRATED ALL THE METHODS AND TRICKS SHE USED IN THE REAR SALON AS IF SHE WERE BRAGGING.
AS HIBINO-SAN SAID... DURING THE CROSS-EXAMINATION, ANDOU SHIORI CONFESSED EVERYTHING READILY, TO THE POINT OF BEING ANTI-CLIMACTIC.

THEN, SHE CHOSE HIBINO-SAN FOR THAT ROLE.
MOST LIKELY, SOMEWHERE IN HER HEART SHE WISHED SOMEONE WOULD FIND OUT.
SHE HAD TAKEN THE UTMOST CARE NOT TO ALLOW HER IDENTITY TO LEAK OUT TO ANYONE.

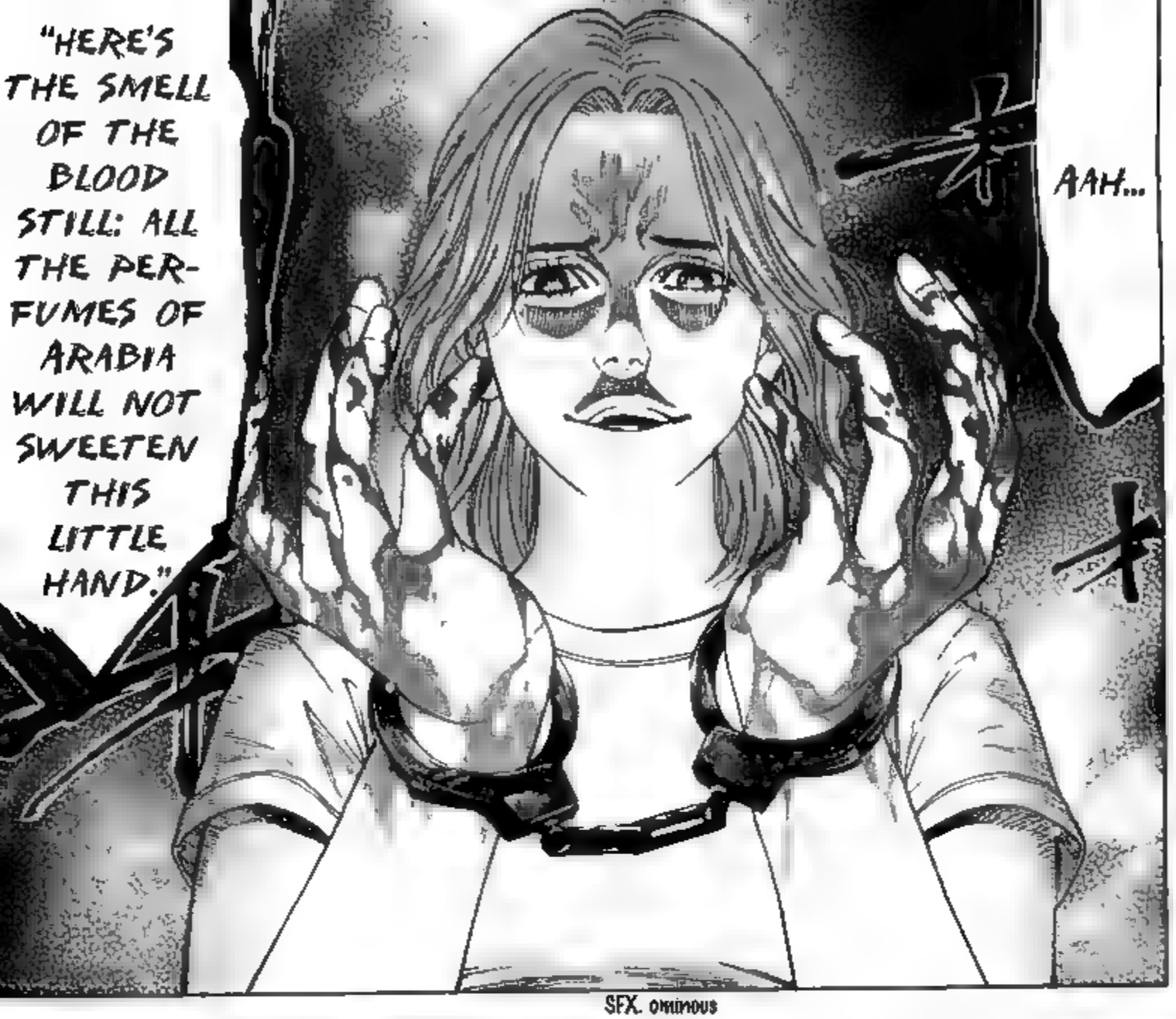
THE TRAGEDY OF A PER-FORMER...



SFX: step x5

AFTER ALL, UNTIL NOW I COULDN'T TALK TO ANYONE. NOW, I CAN BOAST ABOUT WHAT I DID IN THE REAR SALON AS MUCH AS I WANT.
TOO BAD FOR YOU, THE SENSATION OF BEING CAUGHT IS SIMPLY THE BEST!
YOU ARE HERE TO LAUGH AT ME.
... PERHAPS,
TO ASSURE HIS ASCENSION TO THE THRONE, SHE LED MACBETH TO MURDER KING DUNCAN, BANQUO, MACDUFF'S WIFE AND CHILDREN... EVERY BEING WHO STOOD IN THE WAY, ONE BY ONE... EVENTUALLY, SHE BECAME PLAGUED BY SOMNAMBULISM UNDER THE WEIGHT OF HER SINS
LADY MACBETH IS THE QUINTESSENTIAL VILLAINESS...
DO YOU REMEMBER, MIDUKI-SAN?
HOW I TOLD YOU THAT MY DREAM TO BECOME AN ACTRESS AROSE WHEN I SAW LADY MACBETH ON THE STAGE?
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PLAY, THE LAST SPEECH BY HERS... MY FAVOURITE SPEECH IS...
FOR PERSONAL PROFIT AND TO SATISFY HER OWN DESIRE SHE STAINED HER HANDS WITH THE BLOOD OF OTHER PEOPLE IN THE END, SHE WENT MAD POOR LADY MACBETH!

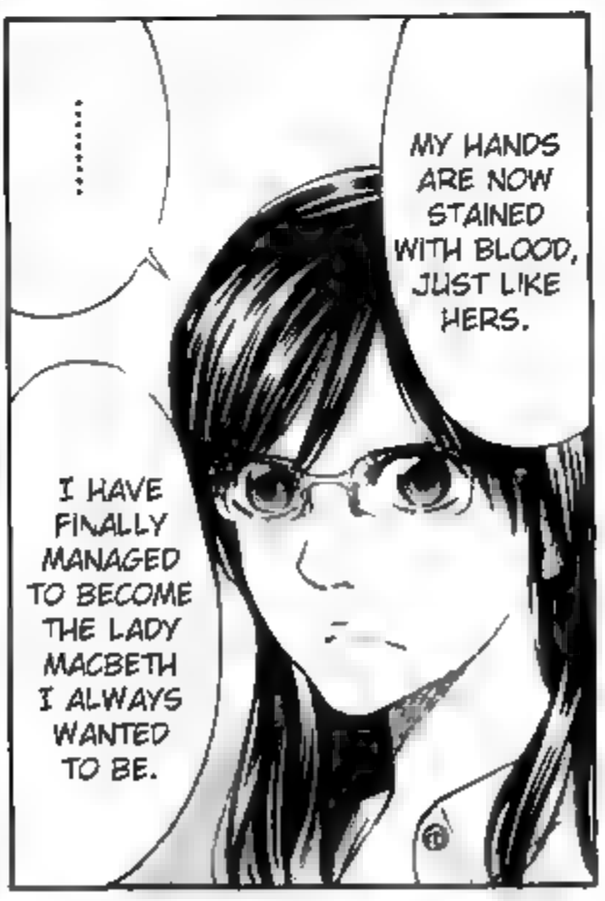
TL/N: Don't use this for school essays, it's inaccurate.



SFX. ominous

TO TAKE THE TRAGEDY TO ITS COMPLETION, AND LOWER THE CURTAINS ON MY TALE BEAUTIFULLY.
THEREFORE, THIS IS WHAT I ALWAYS DESIRED.

SFX: step step step



SFX: twitch

AS FOR ME, THE CURTAINS OF MY DETECTIVE STORY HAVE ONLY JUST RISEN.
IT WAS YOU WHO SAID IT, RIGHT?
THAT WE RESEMBLED EACH OTHER.
THE DETECTIVE AND THE ACTRESS... EVEN THOUGH WE'RE BOTH SUPPOSED TO BE SAD WOMEN WHO ARE NOT ACKNOWLEDGED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE WORLDS, YOUR CURTAIN IS ALREADY FALLING?
IF I AM NOT RECOGNISED BY THE WORLD I LIVE N, THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON TO STRUGGLE WITH ALL MY MIGHT UNTIL I AM.
AND I WILL STRUGGLE AGAINST THIS WORLD FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE IN IT.

ATONE FOR YOUR CRIMES.
IF YOU REGRET IT, THERE IS ALWAYS A CHANCE FOR YOU TO RAISE THE CURTAINS ONCE MORE.

SFX. wave wave

AH WELL, IF THE GUYS FROM "ZERO" WERE THERE, IT'S A GIVEN THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS.
... AS I THOUGHT, HAYATO WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE THE EXPOSURE OF THE REAR SALON...

SFX. crowd noises

IF I FOLLOW THE TRAIL FROM "ZERO" AS BEFORE IT WILL TAKE ME TO...
Look, some bogies! ♪
IF I TAIL HAYATO, I'LL END UP FINDING HIS CONNECTION TO "ZERO", AND WHEN THIS HAP-PENS...

SFX... what's the sound for sticking a finger into a nostril?

THEN AGAIN...
JUST A LITTLE MORE... JUST A LITTLE LONGER AND I'LL BE ABLE TO EXACT REVENGE ON THAT GUY.

YUIKO-SENSEI...
WHO WERE YOU REALLY?

OUR SEEMINGLY PEACEFUL AND QUIET LIFE WON'T CONTINUE FOR MUCH LONGER.
DARKNESS IS COMING THIS FAR...

GOLDEN WATCH!

IKUO!!
.....

HOW... HOW RARE OF YOU, HIBINO-SAN! TO INVITE ME FOR A DRINK JUST LIKE THIS...
RARE, YOU SAY? THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S THE FIRST TIME.
AH... R-RIGHT! YEAH...

AH... I SEE.
HUH?
EVEN THOUGH WE RECONCILED... I WONDER WHETHER SHE IS STILL ANGRY ABOUT SOMETHING...

THERE'S THIS PLACE I'VE ALWAYS LIKED,
AND SINCE WE FINISHED OUR WORK EARLY, IT'S JUST A GOOD CHANCE, THAT'S ALL.

AFTER ALL, IN THE REAR SALON I SAW HER IN THAT CONDITION...

SFX: shake shake

N... NO, NOT AT ALL, PERISH THE THOUGHT!
I ALSO SAID MANY THINGS I SHOULDN'T HAVE BECAUSE I WAS ANGRY
IN THE COURSE OF THIS CASE, MY SELFISH BEHAVIOUR AND EMOTIONAL ACTIONS ENDED UP CAUSING YOU GREAT INCONVENIENCE, RYUZAKI-SAN.
EH?
TONIGHT I'M APOLOGISING TO YOU.

SFX: crowd noises

SFX: jolt!

I...
I WAS GLAD... THAT YOU CAME TO RESCUE ME...
SFX: ba-dump!
NO... I JUST DID THE NATURAL THING TO DO...
AH... WELL... DON'T MEN- TION IT...
.....

HI, THIS IS BANDO!
Y-YES, RYUUZAKI SPEAKING.
!!
BEEEEP
SFX. throb!
OF COURSE, YOU DOLT! I AM GOING TO ATTEND AS WELL AND YOU WILL BE IN TROUBLE IF YOU ARRIVE LATER THAN I!
!
R-RIGHT NOW?
THERE WAS A MURDER! RIGHT NOW, WE ARE TO GO TO EJIMA STATION, WHICH HAS JURISDICTION, AND GET DETAILS ABOUT THE CRIME SCENE!
DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HIBINO, RYUZAKI!
WELL, EITHER WAY IS FINE.
OH WHAT'S THAT, HIB.NO IS WITH YOU?
RYUZA-KI-SAN, IS IT A CASE?
WHA W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? NO WAY THIS IS A DATE ..
SO YOU HAVE MADE AMENDS, YOU TWO?
ARE YOU HAVING A DATE, MY BAD!

LET'S GO, RYUZAKI-SAN!
HE HUNG UP...
BEEP
TOOT TOOT TOOT
EH?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...
SFX: dash
B-BUT... YOU TOOK THE TROUBLE OF INVITING ME FOR A DRINK...
SFX: crowd noises
HUH? WHERE?
THE CRIME SCENE, WHERE ELSE!?
AH... OF COURSE.
LOOK SHARP, NOW!
WE ARE POLICE OFFICERS, RIGHT?
IT CAN'T BE HELPED! AFTER ALL,

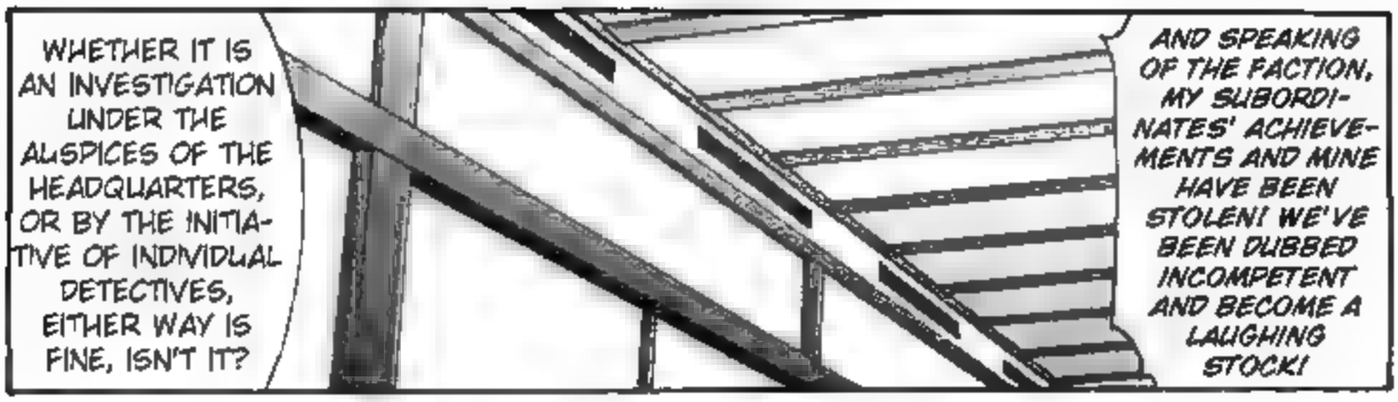
YEAH!
IT WILL BE BAD IF BANDO-SAN GETS MAD AT US!
YES! LET'S GO, QUICK!
Flap Flap
Flap Flap
Flap Flap

SFX: FLAP FLAP FLAP

SFX. grit...

THE INITIATIVE OF THE HEAD-QUARTERS IN THIS IN-VESTIGATION ENDED IN THE INFIL-TRATION OF THE REAR SALON!
THE ARREST OF THE MASTER-MIND WAS DUE TO THE INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS OF THOSE TWO NOVICE MEMBERS OF THE IN-VESTIGA-TION!

I WONDERED WHAT WOULD BECOME OF IT WHEN THEY JUMPED THE GUN AND RAIDED THE REAR SALON, BUT...
CLICK!
AFTER THAT, THE SPLENDID ARREST OF THE MASTERMIND... WELL, THE FACT THAT THE MAS-TERMIND WAS SUCH A CHILD IS A BIT OF A LET-DOWN, ISN'T IT?


WHETHER IT IS AN INVESTIGATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE HEADQUARTERS, OR BY THE INITIATIVE OF INDIVIDUAL DETECTIVES, EITHER WAY IS FINE, ISN'T IT?
AND SPEAKING OF THE FACTION, MY SUBORDINATES' ACHIEVEMENTS AND MINE HAVE BEEN STOLEN! WE'VE BEEN DUBBED INCOMPETENT AND BECOME A LAUGHING STOCK!

"IF YOU DO THAT YOU WILL STRIKE A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT", WEREN'T THOSE THE WORDS YOU USED TO INSTIGATE ME INTO DOING ALL OF THAT!? WEREN'T THOSE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS IN THE END!?
AH!
LIKE HELL IT IS!! THIS TIME, REMOVING THOSE TWO FROM THE FIRST LINE OF THE INVESTIGATION, ISSUING THE INSTRUCTION TO INFILTRATE THE REAR SALON.

SFX: wham!

DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM, YOU!? MY FATHER IS IN THE NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMIS-
WHA... WERE YOU USING ME FROM THE BEGINNING!?

YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT.
I HAD SEEN THROUGH THOSE TWO AND THEY HAVE ACQUITTED THEMSELVES WONDERFULLY BY ARRESTING THE CRIMINAL MATCHING MY EXPECTATIONS ON THE MATTER, AND TO MY BENEFIT

!
FROM NOW ON THE →FESTIVAL← WILL BEGIN.

THE GRAND FESTIVAL, HAVING THE MOST POWERFUL ORGANISATION OF JAPAN, THE POLICE, AS ITS STAGE!

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU THINKING!?

SFX: vroom!

HIS... HIS OWN DAUGHTER WAS DRAGGED INTO IT THIS TIME, AND HE IS OKAY WITH IT...
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT HIBINO...

SFX: throb!

ウロボロス-警察ヲ救ケハ我ニアリ-⑧ 完

「き……北川警視総監が狙撃……されました……!!」

「こんな大胆な犯行……一体誰が……？」

robaros

「エピソード0」完全収録

イクオと竜哉の高校時代を描く番外編

第⑨巻　2011年5月発売予定

次巻予告

「警察の沽券を保つためにも
必ず犯人(ホシ)は挙げなければ
ならない……!!」
でも、今回の事件は
普通じゃないわ
何か裏がありそう…
龍崎さん、一刻も早く
現場に急いで!
POLICE
警視庁

この物語はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件等には、いっさい関係ありません。

BUNCH COMICS

ウロボロス―警察ヲ裁クハ我ニアリ― ⑧

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読者係　TEL.03-3266-5111
◉バンチ編集部
〒162-0825　東京都新宿区神楽坂6-42
神楽坂喜多川ビル7F
TEL.03-3266-5350
http://www.shinchosha.co.jp

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DEATHTOLL

DEATHTOLLSCANS.NET

TRANSLATOR:

WRAITH

PROOFREADER:

HACK

CLEANER:

XEAGLE

REDRAWER:

SARRYMAST

TYPESETTER:

YOTHEN

QUALITY CHECK:

WRAITH

End of season one

This marks the end of the first part of *Ouroboros*. Beginning in the next volume, the series moved to a different magazine and became monthly. The chapters are bigger.

We also have improved raws to work on. Say goodbye to tiny 1200-px, blurry chapters.

As for the pace, chapter 70 will take a little longer because it has more than 50 pages. We will continue striving towards our goal of clearing the backlog, so we will try to release more than a chapter a month, preferably a little better than biweekly. The team is coping nicely now.

Thanks for your continued interest.

Chapter note: "Here's the smell of the blood still (...)"

Act 5, scene 1. This is the real quotation, straight from the Head Press Edition of the Complete Works. The Japanese bubble was simply "No matter how much I wash it, I cannot remove the smell of blood." Laaaame.

Odd pickings section

(where positions open for other series are briefly announced)

- *Diamond Cut Diamond*: Our partners at Outer World Scans need a translator. If you contact us, I'll put you in touch with our partners.

- *Sprite*: we need a super-redrawer. I mean, you have to have godly skills. You will take an enhanced version of our test and must pass with flying colours. We also need a typesetter, as it seems the output will be a little higher than Kuroto alone can manage right now.

- We are also interested in recruiting more translators for Death Toll. Feel like joining a small, laid-back environment where people work mainly on series they like? Have a series you want to revive, or bring to the English readership for the first time? Consider joining us!

The Internet, March 07, 2015,

Wraith.